

NUMBER 14-15, 1995

hai king leaves hospital after surgery

King Hussein left hospital after surgery. The king, who had been in hospital since he fell from his horse on September 14, was discharged on September 15. He is expected to return to his official duties soon.

Patient says hospital left towel inside him

A patient at a hospital in Jordan has filed a complaint against the medical staff. The patient claims that a towel was left inside him after a surgical procedure. The hospital has denied the claim and is investigating the matter.

permarket fined over syringe in bacon

A supermarket in Jordan has been fined for selling bacon containing a syringe. The incident occurred when a customer found a syringe in a package of bacon. The supermarket is now facing legal action.

New camera nables golfers to dissect their swings

A new camera technology has been developed that allows golfers to analyze their swings. The camera captures high-speed footage of the golfer's swing, which can then be reviewed and analyzed to improve technique.

Traders take profit as dollar rises

NEW YORK (AFP) — Traders book their profit as the dollar rose in early trading here Friday on the strength of better than expected industrial production data. The dollar was also buoyed by comments made by Treasury Deputy Secretary Larry Summers who said the G7 group of industrialized nations firmly believed the dollar should rise. Gold was up 20 cents at \$386.50 an ounce compared to its Thursday close. Towards 10.25 a.m. (1425 GMT), the dollar was trading at 1.490 German marks, compared to 1.4863 on Thursday and 103.65 yen compared to 102.50. In London midday trading, the dollar was quoted at 1.4895 mark and 103.45 yen. The dollar was also up against the French franc, but slightly down against the Swiss franc and the pound sterling. It traded at 5.1322 French francs, compared to 5.1195 on Thursday, 1.2115 Swiss francs (1.2140) and 0.6455 pound sterling (0.6460). In an interview with CNBC television, Mr. Summers Friday morning had said efforts to strengthen the dollar represented "an important process," adding: "It will continue."

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U.N. halts strikes on Serbs in return for end to siege Relief flights expected to land in Sarajevo under accord to remove heavy Serb guns U.S.-brokered peace plan makes headway

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — A French plane landed at Sarajevo airport Friday, testing a Serb promise to permit U.N. aid flights for the first time in five months in exchange for a halt in airstrikes. The military plane carrying Defence Minister Charles Millon was a dry run for U.N. aid flights to resume later in the day. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it was "ready to go very, very quickly."

Under an accord reached Thursday, the Serbs also agreed to pull back heavy guns menacing Sarajevo. It won the rebels a three-day reprieve from North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) bombing and gave new impetus to a U.N. plan to end 40 months of war. The skies over Sarajevo were cloudy Friday morning, but NATO planes could be heard overhead. City streets were quiet but full of people, since Serbs have mostly refrained from targeting Sarajevo since the start of the NATO air campaign.

The commitment to let planes land in Sarajevo again was made by General Dragomir Milosevic, commander of Bosnian Serb forces around the city. Gen. Milosevic also agreed to let the United Nations and international organisations use a road leading from the airport through the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza to Kiseljak, a neighbourhood controlled by Bosnian Croats. The Croats are allied with the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

The Serb concessions came after more than two weeks of NATO airstrikes and artillery attacks by the U.N. rapid reaction force. The strikes began Aug. 30 after a mortar attack on a Sarajevo market killed 38 people. Serbs forced the airport to shut in April by making threats and attacking U.N. planes. The Serbs also have not permitted the United Nations regular road access to Sarajevo for months. That has forced soldiers, diplomats and aid workers to use the treacherous road over Mount Igman at the risk of Serb attack.

The accord was brokered by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke, who met with President Alija Izetbegovic in the western city of Mostar on Friday and then flew to Geneva for meetings with European diplomats. Mr. Holbrooke said in Geneva that air strikes would resume immediately if Bosnian Serbs fail to comply fully with their withdrawal pledge. He called his talks in Mostar "useful," but we still have a long way to go.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton offered qualified praise for the Bosnian Serbs' pledge, saying "I think we have a chance" at achieving peace. Mr. Clinton emphasized, however, that "if the Bosnian Serbs do not comply with their commitments, the airstrikes will resume."

Moscow said it hoped the pause in airstrikes would become a "final" halt to the campaign and it opposed the idea of NATO troops replacing U.N. forces to guarantee any peace settlement. The reaction from Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev came as statements from France and Germany expressed cautious hope for the U.S.-brokered accord.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott concluded a 24-hour visit to the Russian capital centred on Bosnia and U.S.-Russian relations. ITAR-TASS news agency quoted him saying as he left that there were "reasons to be a little more optimistic than we have been for a long time, even though there is still a lot of work to do."

Rabin says he received Russian explanation of Iran deal

MOSCOW (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he got a fuller explanation from Russia about its controversial deal to build a nuclear reactor in Iran. Mr. Rabin said there was no chance Israel could talk Russia out of the deal, which is also opposed by the United States. "It looks like Russia is committed to the agreement," he said. "If the United States and President Clinton couldn't convince the Russian government, I don't pretend to."

Arafat, Peres meet today to work out self-rule deal

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said on Friday he would meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Egypt on Saturday to try to clear obstacles to signing an accord next week on wider Palestinian self-rule. "I am going to meet Peres either in (the Egyptian Red Sea resort of) Tabu or Cairo," Mr. Arafat told reporters.

Earlier, PLO chief negotiator Ahmad Qouriea said the talks would be held in the Egyptian capital. But PLO officials told Reuters that Mr. Peres had objected to the Cairo venue and insisted on Tabu. No Israeli officials were available for comment. Mr. Arafat said he would travel to Cairo on Saturday for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and meet Mr. Peres later in the day after they agreed on a location.

"There are still many sticking points — basic ones like Hebron, detainees and prisoners, territorial issues, the civilian sphere and security," Mr. Qouriea told reporters. "If tomorrow's meeting is successful, we can overcome the sticking points and say that there will be a signing on the 21st of this month," Mr. Qouriea said.

Clashes in Hebron

In Hebron, Palestinians shouting "Settlers out" stoned Israeli soldiers in widespread clashes on Friday. The United States stepped up pressure on Mr. Arafat to accept a compromise on Hebron that would allow a Sept. 21 White House signing of an overall Israel-PLO accord on Palestinian self-rule in West Bank, a PLO official said. U.S. Consul-General Ed Abington met with Mr. Arafat on Thursday evening to deliver the message, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. U.S. consulate officials confirmed the meeting took place, but refused further comment.

Osama Al Baz, adviser to President Mubarak, also pressed Mr. Arafat to show flexibility. The PLO official said. But Mr. Arafat is facing counter pressures from the 120,000 Palestinian residents of Hebron who demand that all Israeli soldiers leave, said the town's Mustafa Natche. Referring to daily clashes this week, Mr. Natche said the protesters were sending a message to Mr. Arafat. "The people of the city will not accept a partial solution. They want a full Israeli withdrawal," Mr. Natche said.

Palestinian negotiators insist that the bulk of the soldiers leave, but have said they are willing to let some troops stay behind to guard Hebron's 450 Jewish settlers. Mr. Arafat has also said he would accept a gradual pull-out, as long as it came with a fixed timetable. Israel has offered to pull out of several neighbourhoods, but wants to retain overall control over Hebron.

CAIRO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama met Egyptian officials Friday as part of a Middle East tour to bolster Japan's political and economic role in the region. Mr. Murayama arrived in Cairo Thursday after spending two days in Saudi Arabia, where he met King Fahd. He leaves for Israel on Saturday and will also visit the Gaza Strip, Jordan and Syria. Japan has long had economic ties in the region, particularly since it relies on Arab countries for much of its oil. Mr. Murayama's talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Saturday focused on ways in which Japan could play a bigger political role.



An Israeli soldier aims his weapon while others take up positions in Hebron during a clash with protesting Palestinians (AFP photo)

Murayama holds talks in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama met Egyptian officials Friday as part of a Middle East tour to bolster Japan's political and economic role in the region. Mr. Murayama arrived in Cairo Thursday after spending two days in Saudi Arabia, where he met King Fahd. He leaves for Israel on Saturday and will also visit the Gaza Strip, Jordan and Syria. Japan has long had economic ties in the region, particularly since it relies on Arab countries for much of its oil. Mr. Murayama's talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Saturday focused on ways in which Japan could play a bigger political role.

Beijing conference adopts hotly-contested declaration

BEIJING (R) — The world women's conference passed a hotly disputed blueprint on Friday charting a path for sexual equality into the 21st century that enshrined women's rights as human rights but avoided commitments to pay for action. The United Nations Fourth World Women's Conference passed its platform for action and Beijing Declaration after a cliffhanging finale that saw delegates from 189 nations wrangling over the fine print until dawn on Friday.

"We now need a tidal change," Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland told the closing ceremony. "Women will no longer accept the role of second-rate citizens." An overnight compromise enabled proponents and opponents of new sexual rights to claim victory on the documents on the last day of the world's biggest gathering of women.

"We are determined to promote and protect all human rights of women and girls," the Beijing declaration said. The platform allows greater access to contraception and won a ringing endorsement from President Alberto Fujimori of Catholic Peru, who issued a broadside against the Vatican for its opposition to his free birth-control policies. The nuncio of Pope John Paul II vented fury over ambiguity of the language, warning against wording on sexual rights that could be interpreted to endorse abortion and homosexuality. However, conservatives succeeded in deleting every reference to sex in the declaration, seen as a rallying call to women on sexual equality and rights for a decade.

Mr. Murayama due in Amman on Monday, page 3

Talibans demand Rabbani resign

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Taliban forces have demanded the resignation of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and have threatened to attack the Afghan capital if he does not step down. The Pakistani daily, the News, reported Friday. Diplomats, members of humanitarian organisations and all foreigners should leave Kabul to avoid being caught in possible fighting, the report quoted a Taliban spokesman as saying. Mohammad Hakim Munib also advised Kabul residents to leave the city or take shelter in safe locations. The Taliban, a militia of Islamic religious students whose forces are positioned south of Kabul, set no deadline for Rabbani's resignation. The minister of defence said an attack on the capital was "imminent." Only a few embassies, including those of Iran and India, are located in Kabul. In the last few months a number of humanitarian organisations have set up operations in the capital, during the respite from fighting following the victory of presidential forces against the Taliban near Kabul last March. Since then, almost no rockets have been launched against Kabul and the nearest frontline is 35 kilometres to the southwest of the capital, near Maidan Shahr.

King Hussein awarded prestigious Prince of Asturias Concord Prize

By Cathy King
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has won the Prince of Asturias Concord Award for his life-long efforts towards peace and humanitarian rights. Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Juan Manuel Cabrera said Monday. The Prince of Asturias Foundation awarded the Concord prize to King Hussein on account of the diplomatic role he played after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and his recent decision to grant asylum to General Hussein Kamel, a high-ranking Iraqi official, and members of Saddam Hussein's family. The prize has been awarded annually for the past 10 years. King Hussein was awarded the prize this year under a unanimous decision by a 22-man jury from among 31 candidates.



The Concord prize is given to a person or organisation contributing in a significant way to peace and harmony among peoples. The Prince of Asturias foundation is named after the heir to the Spanish throne. The prize is normally awarded to Spanish or Latin American citizens, and sometimes to non-governmental organisations. Mr. Cabrera

told the Jordan Times. Among previous winners have been Stephen Hawking in 1989, the AIDS Research Foundation for Africa in 1992 and Save the Children last year. Mr. Cabrera said that the jury includes Spaniards, mostly former prime ministers, parliamentarians, professors and intellectuals. Prince of Asturias is the official title of Spain's Crown Prince and there are many disciplines for which the prize is awarded. The Concord Award recognises personal endeavours for peace and humanitarian rights. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who won last year's Prince of Asturias International Cooperation prize, nominated the King for the Concord Award. The award ceremony will be held in Oviedo, the regional capital of the northern Spanish province of Asturias, at the end of October. The ambassador said Spain hoped that King Hussein would be able to attend the ceremony. The prize is worth five million pesetas (\$40,000) and winners also receive a sculpture by Spanish artist Joan Miro.

Libya said to stop expulsions

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has reportedly stopped deporting Palestinians whom he had ordered out of Sept. 1 to show his anger over the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Friday that Egypt had urged Libya to stop the expulsions, which have left about 100 Palestinians stranded at the Libyan-Egyptian border and others waiting in vain to enter the PLO-run Gaza Strip. After contacts with President Hosni Mubarak and Arab League officials, Colonel Qadhafi apparently decided to suspend the deportations. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Friday. Four buses carrying Palestinians stopped at Musaid, a Libyan town near the border, after being told by Libyan officials not to cross into Egypt, the news agency said.

There was no immediate confirmation from Egyptian officials. Still unresolved is the fate of the Palestinians stranded in a no-man's land between the Libyan-Egyptian border. Egypt has refused to let them enter because they do not have proper papers, and Libya has given no indication they will let them return. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sent two people to the border to inspect the deportees' conditions, but has issued no report. MENA said only one Palestinian family crossed the border Friday, and they left voluntarily with permission to enter Gaza. In recent weeks, thousands of Palestinian, Egyptian and Sudanese workers have been expelled from Libya. More than a million foreigners are believed working in the wealthy country, and the unpredictable Qadhafi has frequently used their presence as a way to pressure their home countries.

The Egyptians and Sudanese have been deported for lacking proper residence papers. On Sept. 1, Col. Qadhafi said he would also throw out Palestinians to show the failures of the Israel-PLO accord, which makes no provisions for the return of Palestinians made refugees by the creation of Israel in 1948. Libya later defended the decision, saying the Palestinians were not thrown out but instead had chosen to try to return to Palestine as a patriotic duty. An unnamed Libyan official quoted Friday by Libya's news agency said Arab leaders should support the Palestinians' decision to return and allow them free passage across their territory. However, the decision to expel Palestinians from Libya has largely drawn nothing but criticism in Arab countries. Libya's Arab Unity Minister Jomaa Al Fazani hinted Friday that Tripoli had frozen

its action, saying those who were leaving were doing so of their "own accord." "Some media have sensationalised the voluntary departure of Palestinians... thinking that by raising a media storm they would prevent them returning home," he said. "It's the decision of the Palestinians to return to Palestine and conform to their rights," he told JANA. Meanwhile, Libyan Ambassador to Beirut Ashur Fortas said the expulsions were aimed at "restoring some order to the foreign workforce in a country which is going through an economic crisis." Libya has been under U.N. sanctions since 1992 in connection with the Lockerbie plane bombing four years earlier. "This large foreign workforce represents a burden because they buy state-subsidised products at low

(Continued on page 7)

Egypt begins trial of 49 Brotherhood members today

CAIRO (Agencies) — Ignoring complaints of sham justice, the government will try 49 Muslim Brotherhood leaders before a military court Saturday in the first such trial in nearly 30 years.

The case represents the government's most decisive step against the Brotherhood, Egypt's largest Islamic Group. The men have been arrested since February in a crackdown on the group, which is officially banned but has been allowed to operate openly.

The Brotherhood has disavowed violence in trying to bring about Islamic rule. But in recent months, the government has detained dozens of its members, accusing them of financing extremists who have carried out attacks since 1992.

The trial will begin Saturday at a military base in Haekest, about 40 kilometres east of Cairo. The men are accused of supporting an illegal organisation and trying to run an election as a religious party, which is forbidden by Egyptian law.

The group includes doctors, professors and former government officials, many supposedly Brotherhood leaders, and the rest were recently released.

Human rights advocates have said a fair trial for Brotherhood members is impossible before military courts, which do not allow appeals and have typically handed down stiff sentences.

Members of the Brotherhood, which was founded in 1928, last faced trial in Egypt in 1966, when President Gamal Abdul Nasser accused its members of planning a

coup. Three Brotherhood members were sentenced to death and executed, and 200 were imprisoned.

Beginning in the 1970s, President Anwar Sadat encouraged the group as a counterweight to his leftist opponents. Since then the Brotherhood has gained control of most of Egypt's professional unions, and its members have been elected to parliament under the banner of other parties.

Brotherhood officials say the crackdown is meant to prevent supporters from running in November's parliamentary elections, considered to be a test off support for the President Hosni Mubarak's government.

In the past, only cases of militants were referred to the military courts. Forty-eight had been sentenced to death. But after protests by Western and Egyptian human rights groups, the government again began trying them in civilian courts.

The head of the three-judge tribunal hearing the Brotherhood case, Major General Abdullah, was reportedly targeted last year by militants out to avenge death sentences issued by military courts against their colleagues.

Earlier this year President Hosni Mubarak accused the Brotherhood of providing support for militant armed groups who have been leading a three-year-old campaign of violence to overthrow his government. He referred to them as "Terrorists."

The Brotherhood denied any link to the more military Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah and said it believed in democracy and pluralism.



EXPULSED: A Palestinian family, expelled from Libya, who got permission from Israel to enter Gaza, begin their journey from Salloum on the Egyptian border to the Rafah crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip (see page one) (AFP photo)

Greenpeace accuses Beirut of toxic cover-up

SHANHIR (AFP) — Greenpeace accused the Lebanese authorities on Friday of concealing a site polluted with toxic waste by allowing it to be used as a quarry.

The waste, brought into Lebanon in 1987 and 1988 during the civil war, has been buried in the soil, said Faud Hamdan, a spokesman based in Hamburg, Germany.

The quarry is being used to eradicate the last known proof of this ecological crime," he charged.

Mr. Hamdan told a press conference at the Shanhir site, 20 kilometres north of Beirut, that the quarry was being used to make cement which would spread the toxic waste and increase the risks of contamination.

"Sand and rocks from the quarry area are now being mixed with layers of toxic waste and with ashes from waste that had been burnt," he said.

Results of samples taken by Greenpeace in May and

analysed at Exeter University in England showed a cocktail of toxic substances such as heavy metals, he said.

Mr. Hamdan rejected Environment Minister Pierre Pharaon's announcement on Sept. 1 that the toxic waste file was now closed after a report from the Pasteur Institute in France giving an all-clear.

"The case cannot be closed as long as toxic waste is still contaminating Lebanese soil and threatening ground wa-

ter," he said.

The local authorities had directed the institute's study and no samples were taken from areas where toxic waste has been hidden such as Shanhir, the spokesman said.

Italy and Lebanon say the 16,000 barrels of Italian industrial waste shipped into the country during the war have been retrieved. But Greenpeace insists that two-thirds of it were dumped in Lebanese soil and waters.

PLO official meets U.S. Senate leader

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A key Palestinian official has met Senate leader Bob Dole for the first time amid Palestinian concerns over congressional moves to transfer the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

Mr. Dole met Tuesday with Salim Zanoun, chairman of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) or parliament-in-exile, said Hassan Abdul Rahman, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Washington.

Mr. Abdul Rahman gave few details of the meeting, the first face-to-face encounter between Mr. Zanoun and the Republican presidential candidate.

But he said they discussed "issues of great importance that are determined within the Congress of the United States."

He told the AFP this included economic aid to the Palestinians and other issues affecting Middle East peace. Mr. Dole's office confirmed the meeting occurred, but would not discuss the sub-

stance of the talks.

Mr. Dole introduced controversial legislation in May mandating a transfer of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv by 1999. Such a move which would make the United States the first major country to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Mr. Abdul Rahman reiterated the PLO's long-standing opposition to this, saying any move by the United States to move its embassy to Jerusalem was "a violation of long-held U.S. policy... it

does not serve the peace process."

Mr. Abdul Rahman said support for the embassy move came from "right-wing Jews living in this country, who are trying to undermine the peace process... through legislation in Congress."

Draft U.S. legislation on the Middle East peace contains "very serious pitfalls" because it involves Washington in issues that are exclusively between the Palestinians and Israel, he added.

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Bonn says it had no option but to deport 7 Sudanese

BONN (R) — Germany said on Friday it had no choice but to expel seven Sudanese asylum seekers to their homeland and dismissed suggestions that a third country had offered to receive them.

"At that point in time on Wednesday when the seven Sudanese were sent back there was no pledge on the part of any state to take them in, neither written nor spoken," a government spokesman told reporters.

A church leader renewed allegations that German authorities had turned down an offer from an unnamed country, to take the Sudanese in, preferring to send them back to Sudan, where he said the seven students were likely to face persecution.

Peter Steinacker, president of the Evangelical Church in Hessen-Nassau District, told German ZDF television he regretted that the German government had the chance to find a humanitarian solution but did not take it.

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Egypt, Sudan calm about Libya expelling workers

CAIRO (R) — Libya's mass expulsion of foreign workers has drawn a low-key public response from neighbours Egypt and Sudan, which have too much at stake in Libya to make a fuss, diplomats and analysts said.

Only Palestinian leaders, many of whose followers in Libya have nowhere else to go, have reacted vigorously to Libya's latest campaign to cut down its immigrant workforce.

Some 7,000 Egyptian workers have straggled home across the border so far this month and the Sudanese government is preparing to receive thousands of its own citizens.

Diplomats in Tripoli told Reuters the campaign appeared to be the direct result of a speech by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi

on Sept. 2 in which he reaffirmed his long-term commitment to Libyanising the economy.

But the 30,000 Palestinians in Libya were a special case. Colonel Qadhafi singled them out as a political weapon to show the world that the self-rule agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) failed to meet Palestinian aspirations.

Since the speech the Libyan authorities have increased the number of police checkpoints in the Tripoli area and have rounded up foreigners caught without papers in assembly camps ready for summary deportation, the diplomats said.

"It's been going on a long time but now it has become much more serious. The usual pattern is that Qadhafi

says something and some group adopts it, whether Qadhafi really meant it or not," one diplomat said.

The Egyptian media, usually quick to jump on any affront to national pride, have paid the deportations little attention.

The head of Egypt's diplomatic mission in Tripoli was quoted in government papers on Monday as saying relations were the best possible. He said Col. Qadhafi took good care of the Egyptian workforce and Egyptians worked there in comfort and security.

The Egyptian government has to think of hundreds of thousands of Egyptians who remain in Libya, sending home foreign currency and easing the competition for jobs at home.

Egypt and Libya also share an interest in fighting Islamic militancy, that main

opposition in both countries, and Egypt enjoys its role as an important channel for contacts between isolated Libya and the rest of the world, the diplomats said.

One senior policeman on the Egyptian border showed little sympathy for the returning Egyptians. He said they were unskilled workers who went to Libya illegally to make a fast buck but ended up sleeping in the streets.

Critics of the Libyan and Egyptian rulers say prominent Egyptians have prospered through their Libyan connections.

The pretender to the Libyan throne said this month Libya had paid millions of dollars to Egyptian officials in a failed attempt to improve relations with the West. Egypt denies it.

Egyptians returning from

Libya have said the Libyans suspected that Egyptian fundamentalists had played a role in recent unrest by militants in the eastern city of Benghazi.

But the diplomats in Tripoli said they had no evidence for this. "Most of us think the unrest is internal, though it is of a fairly serious nature," said one.

The Sudanese government has even more reason to take the deportations lying down.

Alone of Sudan's important neighbours, Libya still counts as a friend, despite the ideological gap between the Islamists in Khartoum and Col. Qadhafi's pan-Arab socialism.

"Sudan needs oil, Sudan needs money, Sudan needs friends. Sudan's the beggar in this relationship," the diplomat said.

Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir was the only foreign head of state at celebrations of the 26th anniversary of Col. Qadhafi's military coup this month and the Libyans paid him the rare honour of asking him to speak on the occasion.

Far from protesting at the expulsions, Sudan is sending a high-level delegation to arrange for an orderly repatriation of those Sudanese whom Libya no longer wants.

By being so valuable to both its more populous neighbours, Libya has managed to avoid making a choice between them.

Relations between Cairo and Khartoum have been bad for years, especially accused Sudan of helping in an attempt to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in June.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Settlements begin testing security system

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Two Jewish settlements are testing an alarm system designed to protect settlers driving in the West Bank after an Israeli troop pullback, Israel Radio said Friday. Settlers will have special alarm buttons in their cars. The buttons, when pushed, alert security headquarters that the driver is in trouble. The car's exact location will then appear on computerised map and a two-way communication channel will be opened with the driver, Israel Radio said. The system has been proposed to improve protection for the West Bank's 140,000 settlers once Israeli soldiers leave Palestinian towns there under an emerging Israel-PLO autonomy accord. The system is being tested by the residents of Maaleh Adumim and Ariel, the two largest West Bank settlements, the radio said.

Five killed in floods in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — Five people were killed in floods caused by heavy rains in western Tunisia, a Tunisian newspaper reported on Friday. Independent daily Al Sahab said also several houses were damaged on Wednesday near Bou Salem, west of Tunis. Tunisia has suffered drought in recent years, forcing it to import grain and damaging olive oil exports.

Mandela invites Rabin to S. Africa

TEL AVIV (AFP) — South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo on Friday delivered an invitation to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to visit his country, officials said. Mr. Rabin, whose invitation came from President Nelson Mandela, warned during the meeting of the "risks to the region from the Iranian threat," in reference to growing economic links between Pretoria and Tehran. Mr. Nzo, reaffirming South Africa's commitment to the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, travelled on to Gaza for talks with Yasser Arafat.

Pakistan president on pilgrimage to Mecca

JEDDAH (AP) — Pakistani President Farooq Leghari arrived Friday for off-season pilgrimage to Islam's holiest city, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. It said Mr. Leghari, who was accompanied by several officials, was received at King Abdul Aziz airport by the adviser to the Saudi court, Ali Ben Hassan Al Shaer. Mr. Leghari and his companions were expected to proceed to Mecca, 60 kilometres east of Jeddah, for Umrah.

Young bride dies on wedding day in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — A young British couple had just exchanged marriage vows Thursday when the bride dropped dead in the lobby of a hotel that was to host their wedding party. The victim, Joanne Cook, 24, appears to have died of cerebral hemorrhage, said a statement by the police in Paphos, a western resort where the couple were wed. Ms. Cook and her groom, Kieran Laybourn, 26, both from Enfield, Middlesex, came to Cyprus on Sept. 6. Relatives said Ms. Cook had been complaining of headaches, but was apparently too preoccupied with wedding preparations to seek medical advice.

Turkish troops kill 50 rebels, lose 4

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Turkish troops killed some 50 rebel Kurds and lost four of their own soldiers in the southeast in one of the biggest reported clashes in Turkey this year, security officials said on Friday. The fighting, which began early on Thursday, was still going on in the mountainous area between the townships of Sason and Kulp, near the borders of Diyarbakir province, the governor's office said. No further details were immediately available.

Army widow quits leading post in Turkey's left

ANKARA (R) — The widow of an army colonel, picked to join Turkey's Social-Democrat Party executive for her criticism of Ankara's policy on a Kurdish rebellion, resigned on Friday after less than a week. Anatolian news agency said. The election of Tomris Ozden with the most votes at last weekend's congress of the Republican People's Party (CHP) junior coalition partner had been seen as a sign the party wanted to challenge the military-only approach to the 11-year separatist war with the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). "I am very upset. Damn it all," CHP executive member Mehmet Sevinen told Anatolian. "People in Turkey are wasted quickly. She was the wife of a martyr, after all."

Baghdad has 2,000 street children — UNICEF

GENEVA (AFP) — Some 2,000 Iraqi boys and girls are begging in the streets, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has said. "The next stage is delinquency," UNICEF delegate Das-Gupta Subhash warned at a press conference. At least "nobody is sleeping on the pavement" yet, he added. The mortality rate for children under age five has been growing since the economic embargo was imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait five years ago. Subhash noted. Even though food and medicine are exempt from the embargo, Iraq has been little able to afford imports since it has been prevented from exporting its oil.

Perry backs U.S. role on Golan

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States should be willing to contribute troops to a peacekeeping force on the Golan Heights if needed for an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement, Defence Secretary William Perry said on Thursday. "I believe that if Israel and Syria were to reach a peace agreement and if that peace agreement were to call for a peacekeeping force on the Golan Heights, the United States should be willing to contribute some of those peacekeeping forces," he told reporters at a lunch sponsored by the Overseas Writers Association.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 ... Back to the Future
14:30 ... Harry and the Hendersons
15:00 ... Only in Hollywood
15:30 ... Football match UEFA Champions League (1995/1996)
17:00 ... Children's programme — Les Mundos Englobes
17:30 ... Dico. — Le Bicentenaire du Louvre
18:00 ... Drama — Operation Open
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... Magazine — Faut Pas Revenir
19:30 ... News Headlines
19:35 ... Dico. The Olympic Alarm
20:30 ... The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10 ... Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman
22:00 ... News in English
22:25 ... Feature film: "Overkill"
23:59 ... The Noble House

PRAYER TIMES
04:57 ... Fajr
12:31 ... Dhuhr
14:01 ... Asr
18:46 ... Maghrib
20:04 ... Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweilieh, Tel. 810741

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637441
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 632866
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 638551, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624324
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641195
The Latter-day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church is Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to drop gradually within the next two days with weather conditions becoming moderate to fine and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman ... 18 / 31

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre ... 637111
Civil Defence Department ... 661111
Civil Defence Immediate ... 630341
Rescue ... 637777
Fire Brigade ... 617101
Blood Bank ... 775121
Highway Police ... 63402
Traffic Police ... 806301
Public Security Department ... 630321
Hotel Complaints ... 615810
Price Complaints ... 661176
Water and Sewerage ... 637111
Complaints ... 897467
Amman Municipality ... 787111
Complaints ... 787111
Telephone Information ... 121
Overseas Calls ... 8110230
Central Amman Telephone ... 637111
Repairs ... 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 661101
Jordan Television ... 771111
Radio Jordan ... 741111
Water Authority ... 661101
Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615
Electric Power Company ... 636361
RJ Flight Information ... 18-53201
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ... 18-53201

HOSPITALS
AMMAN: Husain Medical Centre 8131332
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642916
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity ... 62362
Mulha, J. Amman ... 636141
Palestine, Shmebani ... 664714
Shmebani Hospital ... 669131
University Hospital ... 845945
Al-Muasher Hospital ... 667279
The Islamic, Abdali ... 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali ... 6641646
Italian, Al-Muasher ... 7771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ... 7751126
Army, Marka ... 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital ... 60224050
Amal Hospital ... 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ... 865199
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital 109/83323
Zarqa National Hospital ... 109/83323
Ibn Sina Hospital ... 109/86732
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital 109/86940
BRID: Princess Basma Hospital 102/75555
Greek Catholic Hospital 102/72275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital 102/37100
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital 103/31411

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 108/53201-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:45 ... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
06:00 ... Damascus (RJ)
06:45 ... New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 ... Karachi, Dhaka (RJ)
10:30 ... Beirut (RJ)
11:00 ... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
11:00 ... Colombo (RJ)
15:40 ... Riyadh (add) (RJ)
16:30 ... Karachi, Dhaka (RJ)
16:30 ... Beirut (RJ)
18:15 ... Istanbul (RJ)
19:00 ... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
19:15 ... London, Berlin (RJ)
20:40 ... Vienna (RJ)
22:20 ... Madrid (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:40 ... Beirut (RJ)
08:00 ... Aqaba (RJ)
12:00 ... Vienna (RJ)
12:40 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:45 ... Istanbul (RJ)
13:00 ... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:00 ... Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
13:10 ... Paris (RJ)
15:10 ... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
15:40 ... London (RJ)
16:30 ... Karachi, Dhaka (RJ)
16:30 ... Beirut (RJ)
18:15 ... Istanbul (RJ)
19:00 ... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
19:15 ... London, Berlin (RJ)
20:40 ... Vienna (RJ)
22:20 ... Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
11:18 ... Damascus (AZ)
11:30 ... Riyadh (add) (SV)
12:40 ... Vienna (OS)
14:30 ... Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
21:25 ... Cairo (MS)
23:20 ... Larnaca (CY)
23:59 ... Damascus, Paris (AF)
01:50 ... Amsterdam (KL)
01:50 ... London (BA)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple ... 600 / 401
Banana ... 680
Banana (Mukammal) ... 620
Cabbage ... 130 / 100
Carrot ... 340/350
Cauliflower ... 280/150
Cucumbers (large) ... 120 / 80
Cucumbers (small) ... 120 / 50
Eggplant ... 250 / 150
Garlic ... 300/250
Ginger ... 700/500
Grapes ... 600/500
Guava ... 650/500
Lemon ... 320/220
Marrow (large) ... 200 / 150
Marrow (small) ... 400 / 300
Mulakhia ... 850 / 700
Okra ... 250 / 200
Orange ... 440/400
Peaches ... 1000/900
Pomegranate ... 500 / 350
Pepper (hot) ... 220 / 150
Pepper (sweet) ... 340/250
Potato ... 600 / 500
String Beans ... 240 / 160
Sweet Melon ... 600 / 500
Tomato ... 100/60
Water Melon ... 120 / 70

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
11:18 ... Damascus (AZ)
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14:30 ... Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
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Two Jewish settlers designed to protect after an Israeli troop...
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Home News

'Equity swap most feasible solution to Jordan's British debt burden'

British parliamentarians head home with message on Jordan's 'pivotal' peace process role

By Cathy King
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British parliamentarians, who ended a five-day visit to the Kingdom Friday, said they would return home bearing a message pertaining to Jordan's "pivotal" role in the peace process.

The eight-man delegation, that included members of Britain's Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties and one member of the House of Lords, emphasised the importance of making themselves more familiar with the complex questions related to the peace process.

"It is only by talking to people representing a range of opinion that we can begin to understand, and it is about time that (British) parliamentarians took the time to understand," said Conservative Party member the Rt. Honourable Sir Peter Lloyd.

"In a society of educated people there will be various levels of expectations," Sir Peter said, adding that the group had encountered few in Jordan who thought the "road" would be a quick and easy one.

The group, which was hosted by the London-based, Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding CAABU, an academic institution, came specifically to enhance bilateral relations and not because of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be convened here next month, Sir Peter emphasised.

But he added that the visit's timing was "appropriate" and that the group would also take back messages pointing to the significance of the peace process.

mit's significance, in addition to the hopes that Jordanians have pinned on it.

Sir Peter said that with the peace process there would be increased trade and investment opportunities in which Britain should participate.

On the economic front, he said Jordan's debt to England would be a priority subject to be discussed in London.

Jordan's debt to the United Kingdom currently stands at JD 369 million in the form of export credit guarantees.

Neil Gerrard of the Labour Party said the likelihood of debt write-off was slim, since Britain already wrote off about JD 50 million following the signing of the Washington Declaration in July 1994.

Mr. Gerrard speculated that an equity swap was Britain's most feasible option.

The delegation said it hoped the British government would decide on a course of action before the MENA summit.

According to Sir Peter, the group learned from Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Nabulsi of the "huge increase in internal investment" during the last couple of years, which the bank chief said was not solely attributable to savings brought home by returnees from the Gulf region.

The 1990-91 Gulf crisis prompted the return of about 300,000 Jordanian citizens who were compelled to leave Arab Gulf states.

"There has not been internally generated investment of that level before," stated Sir Peter, who ascribed it to the emergence of privately owned businesses and the

stability of the dinar.

In relation to the development of tourism and its economic benefits, Sir Peter underlined the need for balanced growth and said it would be a "pity if tourism is the first of major industries."

With regard to sanctions imposed on Iraq, Sir Peter said he did not expect across-the-board consensus in Jordan on the need to lift sanctions still imposed on Iraq.

"I was not surprised about people's attitude over the sanctions, but I was surprised about the unanimity," said Mr. Gerrard, who asserted: "Not all of us think that sanctions should remain in place."

Given that press freedom is often used as a measure of democracy, Lord Redesdale of Britain's upper house, the House of Lords, was encouraged by what he saw as a widening of the boundaries of press freedoms in Jordan compared to other countries in the region.

Lord Redesdale has participated in official visits to Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

During the visit the delegation met Islamist parliamentarians, representatives of the far left, Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and other senators, Speaker of the Lower House Sa'ad Hayel Strour and other deputies, Minister of Finance Basel Jaraneh, President of University of Jordan Fawzi Gharabeh, and Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies Mustafa Hamarneh.

The delegation also visited Baqa'a refugee camp and took time off to see Jerash and the Amman Citadel.

Stage set for enactment of 3 major laws

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With the endorsement by the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) of draft amendments to three key economic laws — on income tax, sales tax and telecommunications — with minor changes, the stage is now set for the enactment of the legislation.

The draft legislation and amendments now go before His Majesty King Hussein for his approval in the form of Royal Decrees.

The laws — with the amendments — take effect as soon as they are published in the official gazette.

Meeting on Thursday, the Senate approved the draft amendments with minor changes that are not likely to be challenged by the Lower House, according to observers.

If the Lower House, which approved the drafts early last week with its own amendments, rejects any of the Senate-introduced changes, then the issue would be prolonged, "but the amendments are not of any major significance," said an observer.

The change introduced by the Senate was in an article in the law on income tax which had empowered the Council of Ministers to tax profits deriving from any investment activity by any organisation notwithstanding the provisions of the law.

The amended version now reads: "Notwithstanding the provisions of the law, the Council of Ministers can, upon a recommendation by the finance minister, subject the profits deriving from any investment activity by any organisation to the income tax law."

The Senate approved without any change an amendment to the General Sales Tax Law introduced by the Lower House upon the government's request.

Under the amendment, the sales tax was raised from seven per cent to 10 per cent.

The Lower House's approval of the increase in sales tax was part of a deal under which the government reduced income tax and promised to consider an increase in civil service salaries starting fiscal 1996.

The reductions in income tax will benefit individuals with low income as well as businesses, with a view to attracting capital into investments in Jordan.

According to the finance minister, the reductions in income tax and the increase in sales tax mean roughly the same amount, about JD 30 million.

The draft amendments to the law on telecommunications effectively open the door for the state-owned Telecommunications Corporation to commercialise its activities under the Companies Law and then eventually privatise itself after one or two years of continued government ownership.

It also clears the way for competition in telecommunications in the country since the private sector will be given concessions by the government.

The Senate approval of the three draft laws came in a session attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and members of the Council of Ministers.

Also on Thursday, the Senate referred to its Finance Committee draft amendments to the law on encouragement of investments.

The panel will study the legislation and present its recommendations to the full Senate next week.

The amendments were approved by the Lower House of Parliament in a late night session on Wednesday.

The three draft laws endorsed on Thursday and the legislation on encouragement of investments are all part of key measures that the government has undertaken ahead of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman in October.

Local reports said the King is expected to issue a Royal Decree calling the current extraordinary session of Parliament to recess next week since the legislature, which began the session in June, has completed the work assigned to it in the Royal Decree that convened it.

The current extraordinary session is the longest in Jordan's parliamentary history, the reports said.

UNRWA chief refuses to meet with executive panel, refugees

Agency workers plan strike in 5 operation areas

By Ghali Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen has refused to meet with the agency's executive committee representatives and Palestinian refugees to discuss the agency's planned reduction of services, prompting UNRWA workers to stage a strike in UNRWA's five areas of operation Monday, a labour committee source said.

The strike, which was originally planned for Sept. 4 had been postponed pending the outcome of talks executive committee representatives planned to hold with Mr. Turkmen. The commission is expected to arrive in Amman on Sept. 19 to meet with Jordanian officials over UNRWA's operations and to inaugurate a new school in Baqa'a camp financed by Japan.

"This is the first time Mr. Turkmen declines to meet with us, because he does not have answers to our demands," one labour committee source said.

The three-hour strike, which will be staged in front of UNRWA headquarters, will be part of a stepped-up campaign against the agency's failure to respond to "UNRWA workers' demands concerning the provision of better health, education and social services."

It will also demand salary increases to cope with the rising cost of living and end of service compensations compatible with those offered by the Jordanian government.

The Jordan Times that they are entitled to retirement compensation only after 30 years of service. They said they demanded that UNRWA workers be eligible for this benefit after 25 years of service.

"But the agency brushed aside all our demands," one source said.

Sources had argued that UNRWA should not reduce its services before the refugee problem is resolved.

"UNRWA's establishment was based on an international decision to serve Palestinian refugees whose problem is not yet resolved," said the sources.

Although sources said that UNRWA's ability to meet those demands will depend on the availability of new funds provided by the donor countries, one source argued that UNRWA is not affected by budget constraints because the agency has received "huge" donations from those countries this year and throughout the past years.

Turkmen had promised to grant employees salary hikes in light of the donor countries' conference which was held in Amman, but nothing happened so far," the source added.

Amidst the escalated tension between UNRWA and its employees, sources said that the workers plan to take "harsher measures" against the agency if it refuses to meet their demands.

"We plan to stage an open strike in UNRWA's five areas of operation and close all the organisations if Mr. Turkmen does not respond to our demands," one source said.

He added that committee representatives and

UNRWA workers are against renewing Turkmen's mandate which expires at the end of the year.

The strike Monday will also protest against what sources called "UNRWA's oppressive managerial policies," which, they said, became apparent when the agency dismissed the dean of the Educational Sciences Faculty, Izzeddin Manasrah.

Dr. Manasrah was dismissed for publicly criticising the agency for its decision to close down the college. The decision was reversed for one year after consultations with the government and the Palestine National Authority.

UNRWA executive committee representatives staged a one-hour sit-in last Tuesday protesting Dr. Manasrah's dismissal.

The student council at the faculty, refugee camp representatives and other supporters who participated in the sit-in said that the decision to terminate the dean's services was "repressive."

The dean's dismissal was also condemned by the Jordanian opposition parties, the Arab Association for Comparative Literature in Algiers and many others who described the measure as "unfair."

UNRWA employs 20,000 people of whom the majority are Palestinian refugees who benefit from the agency's health, education and social services. The agency's services to refugees have been reduced over the past years.

Among the agency's operations in Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank, its operations in Jordan are the largest as it hosts the largest number of refugees.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Youth march for 'Sports for All'

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat Friday participated with hundreds of youth in the "Sports for All" march which he kicked off from the main Gate of Hussein Youth City.

At the end of the march, organised by the Sports For All Federation (SFAF), Dr. Jaradat delivered trophies to the institutions participating in the march, and distributed medals to the individuals who took part in the march.

The SFAF, which is an affiliate of the Cairo-based Arab Federation for Sports for All, aims to encourage sports and promote awareness about its importance.

Dr. Jaradat was deputising for Youth Minister Awad Khleifat.

Land transport firm earns JD 2m net profit in '94

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan-Syria Land Transport Company (JSLTC) Friday said it earned a net profit of JD 2 million in 1994 and has accordingly decided to allocate JD 1 million to modernise its fleet of trucks to meet the company's expanding needs.

Company General Manager Hamdi Habashneh was quoted in a statement released Friday as saying that the company, set up in 1975, last year earned JD 10 million in gross revenues.

The company enjoyed 10 years of exemptions from taxation when it was first established. Mr. Habashneh said.

In 1986, however, the company started paying all required customs duty and income tax, he added.

The JSLTC, which has offices in Damascus, Amman and Aqaba, transports mainly phosphate, potash and cement to the port of Aqaba.

The statement said the ministers of transport in the two countries have now endorsed the resolutions of the company's general assembly which reviewed the company's activities in 1994 and approved plans for 1995.

They also approved the distribution of profits to the Jordanian and Syrian government, the joint owners of the company.

The statement said the company's general assembly has decided to increase the company's assets by purchasing 50 new trucks to expand its 362-truck fleet.

The statement quoted Minister of Transport Samir Kaware as saying that the JSLTC is one of the most successful Jordanian-Syrian projects.

The JSLTC employs 737 Jordanian and Syrian workers.

'Heatwave to ease off, but more could come'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The heatwave, with temperatures soaring to 37°C degrees in Amman over the past few days, will gradually decline to 28°C Monday, according to the Department of Meteorology Friday.

A department spokesman said that temperatures during the day were expected to reach 33°C Friday dropping to 31°C degrees Saturday, 29°C on Sunday and 28°C on Monday and falling to 19°C in the evenings.

The spokesman said that the heatwave, originating in the Arabian Peninsula due to a low air pressure system, will gradually phase out to be replaced by

Murayama visit seen as major turning point in Jordan-Japan ties, says ambassador

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japanese Prime Minister Tomichii Murayama's visit to Jordan this week will be a major turning point in Jordanian-Japanese relations as well as Tokyo's role in the Middle East process, says the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Takayuki Kimura.

Mr. Murayama, who began a Middle East visit in Saudi Arabia on Sept. 12, is due here on Monday afternoon from Israel and the Gaza Strip after also visiting Egypt.

"Japan is an active partner in support of the Middle East peace process," said Mr. Kimura, noting that his country chairs the multilateral working group on the environment and also plays an active role in the other groups working on regional cooperation.

The ambassador said Tokyo's recent decision to deploy a 50-strong non-combat unit from Japan's Self-Defence Forces with the U.N. Observer Force on the Golan Heights was another sign of his country's interest in assuming a stronger role in the Middle East.

"We believe that it is very important to have the prime minister come here and provide his personal support for the peace process" in meetings with the region's leaders, said the ambassador, who assumed office last month.

"The prime minister will also extend his full support for the multilateral phase of the peace process and the Amman summit" on economic development of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) scheduled to be held Oct. 29-31 and "other activities related to the peace process," Mr. Kimura told the Jordan Times.

In the same political context, the ambassador added, Japan considers Jordan as one of the key players in the region and gives high value for Jordan's opinions and



Takayuki Kimura

the Jordanian people with Japanese culture and way of life," Mr. Kimura said.

Mr. Murayama is expected to reaffirm Japan's support for the proposal for a regional development bank and willingness to contribute to its capital. As to the location of the proposed bank, "it is an issue that should be discussed and decided upon by the parties directly concerned," Mr. Kimura said. "Japan respects and supports Jordan's position in this regard."

It was not immediately known whether Mr. Murayama will announce any aid to Jordan during the visit. Tokyo and Amman are discussing several projects for possible Japanese financing as well as for grant aid. These include bridges and crossing points across the River Jordan and access roads.

Jordan became eligible for Japanese grant aid in 1993 after the Kingdom's per capita income dipped below \$1,200.

Since then the Kingdom has received over \$40 million in Japanese grants. Japan is also Jordan's largest creditor, holding about \$1.8 billion of the Kingdom's foreign debts of \$5.6 billion. Tokyo recently agreed to adjust interest on the loans to alleviate the rising burden of the loans given in Japanese yen as the Japanese currency gained strength against the dollar.

Japanese foreign policy does not allow for cancellation of foreign dues and continued development loans. As such, Tokyo has promised to make more funds available to Jordan at concessional terms to help the Kingdom's balance of payments and build foreign currency reserves.

Japanese officials also indicated recently that the Tokyo government was considering "some kind of a formula under which Jordan's debt burden could be further reduced."

WHAT'S GOING ON

- LECTURE**
- * "The East: Is it in environmental danger," (in Arabic) by Dr. Saif Tel at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jhal Amman, at 6:30 p.m.
- DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES**
- EXHIBITIONS**
- * Graphic work by several artists and students in the South Gallery.
 - * Photography of Jordan, "Elements in Harmony" by Hala Hilmi Hodeib at the Blue House.
 - * Painted stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.
 - * "Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Ali
- EXHIBITIONS**
- * Bermamet.
 - * Open Air Sculpture workshop.
 - * Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.
 - * Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Central Gallery.
 - * 3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi at Library.
 - * Arabic calligraphy at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
 - * Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jhal Amman.
 - * Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

IAF seeks higher council ruling on vote of confidence demand

AMMAN (J.T.) — During Thursday's session of Parliament, the 16-member Islamic Action Front (IAF) bloc, which had last week called for a vote of confidence on Justice Minister Hisham Tel over the recent crisis triggered by the mass resignation of 23 senior judges in the country, demanded that the issue be settled through the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution.

In their original memorandum submitted to the House, the IAF deputies blamed Mr. Tel for the judges' decision to resign and accused him of offending the judiciary by suggesting that the resignations came as a result of instigation by political parties.

The judges in question revoked their intention to resign after Prime Minister Zaid Ben Shaker promised last week that

the government would respond favourably to their demands for better working conditions and health insurance schemes for them and their families.

During Thursday's session also, the House approved a proposal by deputy Mohammad Toweib to issue an urgent appeal to the parliaments and governments of Syria, Egypt and Lebanon to rescind their decision banning entry into their territory by Palestinians expelled from Libya.

In addition, the House endorsed the draft law on investments as referred to it by the government, after introducing minor amendments. One such amendment allows non-Jordanians to withdraw their capital plus all profits earned on that capital upon liquidation, full or partial sale of their business in the Kingdom.

Sri Lankan rebels claim 15 civilians killed in offensive

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil guerrillas Friday alleged that a military strike killed 15 civilians, as government troops continued their offensive in northern Sri Lanka for a fourth successive day, Tamil sources and officials said.

The clandestine radio of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) claimed that 15 civilians were killed and another 43 injured in artillery and aerial bombardment of villages in northern Jaffna peninsula, Tamil sources said.

The rebel radio said four Tamil fighters were killed. But a military spokesman here denied there were civilian casualties and claimed that 24 rebels since the limited offensive to the rebel-controlled peninsula was launched Tuesday.

"The operation is continuing," the spokesman said. "Three more Tigers were killed yesterday. Our casualties so far stand at five soldiers dead." The five troops were killed on the first day of fighting.

The Voice of Tigers radio said hundreds of civilians were displaced in the villages of Punnalaikadduwan and Mallakam and several buildings damaged in the

military offensive, Tamil sources, who monitored the broadcast, said.

Military officials said the aim of the current campaign was to destroy LTTE mortar gun positions on the outskirts of the main Palaly military complex that had come under intermittent rebel fire in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, investigators continued a probe into the crash of an air force transport aircraft off the island's western coast, which killed all 75 security personnel on board, officials said.

Sabotage or bad weather were being investigated as likely causes for Wednesday's crash of the Russian-built transport plane, defence officials said. The passengers included 68 soldiers being ferried to the northern war theatre.

The air force has ruled out an LTTE missile attack. The rebels were blamed for bringing down two air force aircraft with missiles in the Jaffna peninsula in April. The authorities have banned all domestic flights since Thursday.

The loss of the AN-32 transport plane was a major blow to a planned military assault against the LTTE in the Jaffna peninsula later this month, defence officials

said.

Chief military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe admitted the loss of the plane was a setback but said it was "temporary." The LTTE for its part remained silent about the crash.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in the north-east for Sri Lanka's two million Tamils.

Meanwhile the Sri Lankan government Friday denied reports that it planned to outlaw the Tamil Tigers to pave the way for a worldwide ban on the guerrilla group.

The state-run Daily News Friday carried a report quoting Sri Lanka's ambassador to the United States, Jayantha Dhanapala as saying that the LTTE would be banned in due course.

But a Foreign Ministry spokesman vehemently denied the report.

"This is not true. There is no such move. The report has quoted Mr. Dhanapala out of context," the spokesman said.

The Daily News quoted Mr. Dhanapala as telling a conference of Sri Lankan expatriates in Michigan that the government had not banned the LTTE previously because "it wanted to keep the option of negotiations open."

However, Mr. Dhanapala was quoted as saying that the LTTE would be banned in Sri Lanka and "a request made to governments where the LTTE has offices to close them." Sri Lanka's foreign minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar has repeatedly urged Western governments to help terminate the LTTE overseas operations. The LTTE has several offices in Western capitals.

However, foreign governments have stressed that they were not able to take action either until the LTTE violated the laws of their host countries or the Sri Lankan government banned the guerrilla organisation.

A senior U.S. official Robin Raphael said during a brief visit here earlier this month that even if Colombo banned the LTTE her government would not be able to punish the rebels unless they violated U.S. laws.

India is the only country to have outlawed the LTTE, which is blamed for the May 1991 assassination of former Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi. LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran is the main accused in the Gandhi murder case.

Mexico quake kills at least 4, homes destroyed

MEXICO CITY (R) — A major earthquake hit Mexico Thursday, killing at least four people, toppling homes in rural areas and rocking Mexico City almost exactly 10 years after the last big quake killed 10,000 people.

Officials in the poor southwestern state of Guerrero said a 40-year-old woman was confirmed killed and that they had been told a seven-year-old child died when he was crushed by a falling wall at his home. Another two people were reportedly killed.

As rumours of the toll swirled, police agents said 12 people were killed in the badly-hit mountain town of Iguala, where 95 homes were destroyed and about 300 more seriously damaged.

State government spokesmen flatly denied that claim but said dozens of people were injured, most of them hit on the head by loose tiles falling from the roofs of their homes.

Measuring a potent 7.2 on the Richter Scale, the quake caused little serious damage outside the southwestern states of Guerrero — the site of its epicentre — and Oaxaca.

But it caused panic in Mexico City, where residents relived the nightmare of a massive earthquake which killed at least 10,000 people on Sept. 19, 1985.

They went scurrying into the streets when Thursday's earthquake began at 8:04 a.m. (1400 GMT) many cried and hugged each other as the memories of 10 years ago came flooding back.

At least 700 people were treated for shock and many residents feared fresh blows



Two Mexico City residents are treated for minor injuries by a doctor after an earthquake shook the Mexican capital (AFP photo)

in the coming hours and days.

In 1985, the first earthquake measured 8.1 on the Richter Scale and was followed one day later by another which measured 7.6. More than a dozen light aftershocks followed Thursday's quake.

Seismic experts said Mexico City and its 20 million residents may have been saved from greater suffering this time because the combination of geological conditions at the epicentre and the shallowness of the quake pushed much of its force down toward the bowels of the Earth rather than across the country.

The capital's electricity and telephone services were interrupted and a few buildings were evacuated after cracks appeared, including the headquarters of the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, where stairs and columns were damaged, and at the Energy Ministry.

Most of the damage came

to the small towns of Iguala and San Luis Acatlan located in the mountains of Guerrero and about three hours drive from the Pacific beach resort of Acapulco.

Roberto Alvarez, spokesman for the Guerrero state government, said tourists in Acapulco had been frightened but not hurt by the quake.

"Tourists are not as accustomed to this sort of thing as we are — imagine how horrible it was for them," Mr. Alvarez said.

Greenpeace and Mexican ecologists said the quake may have been caused by France's recent nuclear test in the South Pacific.

"We are going to ask the government to investigate whether the Mururoa nuclear test could have contributed to this earthquake since we warned at the time that the explosion might cause seismic tremors," said Homero Aridjis, a poet who heads the group of 100 environmental organisations.

Former Japanese minister Watanabe dies

TOKYO (R) — Michio Watanabe, a former Japanese foreign minister and co-founder for the office of prime minister, died of heart failure at a Tokyo hospital early Friday. He was 72.

Watanabe was for years an outspoken leader of the business-oriented Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which governed Japan for 38 consecutive years before falling from power in 1993. The LDP is now a senior partner in the ruling coalition.

One of his last major tasks was to lead a delegation of LDP members to the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, in March.

There, he signed an agreement with his North Korean counterparts urging the governments of Japan and North Korea to resume talks, stalled since 1992, on normalising ties.

The Japanese government is currently negotiating to begin talks.

Watanabe, first elected to the lower house in 1963, served in a variety of government posts, including deputy prime minister, minister of finance and minister of international trade and industry.

He ran for LDP president twice, once in 1991 against Kiichi Miyazawa and again in 1993 against Yohei Kono.

He lost both times. Mr. Miyazawa went on to become prime minister.

Watanabe also had a history of making off-colour comments, some of which have provoked protest from foreign countries.

He once suggested that blacks in the United States had a problem with credit and were unable to keep up with their bills.

In June, Watanabe's remarks that Japan's brutal 1910 annexation of Korea was the result of an "anti-aggression" agreement provoked riots in South Korea.

He later apologised and retracted his remarks.

1 dead in Bangladesh pre-strike violence

DHAKA (AFP) — One person died and more than 60 people were injured as thousands left Dhaka Friday ahead of a 72-hour nationwide general strike, reports said.

One person was killed and three others seriously injured Thursday in eastern Narasingdi town while making bombs ahead of the strike, the daily Inqilab newspaper reported, adding the injured were rushed to a Dhaka hospital.

Forty people were injured when student supporters of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party and her

arch-rival Hasina Wajed's Awami League clashed Thursday in pro- and anti-strike rallies in southern Barguna town, newspapers reported.

Another 25 people were hurt during violence in the southern river port town of Chandpur, reports said.

In a separate incident Thursday, the United News of Bangladesh news agency said unidentified assailants threw a powerful homemade bomb at the residence of Mahbubur Rahman Masum, the opposition Jatiya Party general secretary

in the nearby river port town of Narayanganj. No one was hurt in the incident.

At least three people have died and scores were injured in opposition street protests over the past two months.

The three-day general strike, the third this month sponsored by the country's three main opposition parties, is likely to coincide with another 72-hour industrial action threatened by the country's trade unions.

The unions have threatened to shut jute and textile mills and block railroads unless the government meets their demand for wage increases by Sunday.

U.S. rejects protests over visits by Taiwanese, Dalai Lama

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States rejected Chinese demands for a total ban on visits by government leaders of Taiwan.

The State Department Thursday also brushed aside Beijing protests about a new issue troubling U.S.-China relations, President Bill Clinton's casual meeting Wednesday with the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan Buddhist leader.

Spokesman Nicholas Burns said the United States "cannot agree" to China's proposition that U.S. visas be denied to leaders of Taiwan. The issue added to the strain of U.S.-Chinese relations when Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui was allowed a private entry visa in June to attend an event at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, his alma mater.

Nepal's young democracy enters a new phase

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — For all its poverty and backwardness, Nepal is often praised for the way it has handled democracy since it switched from an absolute monarchy to a parliament in 1991.

All four of its prime ministers have been activists who had risked their lives and served prison sentences while leading the country's pro-democracy movement in 1990.

And even though Nepal's two main political parties are sharply divided philosophically, they have so far allowed legislators and the electorate to choose between them.

"For a new democracy, Nepal has done a good job," said Joe Manickavasagam, the World Bank director in Nepal.

"It even appears to be learning by trial and error in the important area of economic development. If Nepal goes on like this, the future looks good," he said in an interview.

Last weekend, Nepal dropped a nine-month experiment with a Communist government promoting populism and gave a centrist party that favours free-market economic reforms a second chance.

On Thursday, the new prime minister, 49-year-old Sher Bahadur Deuba, said his Nepali Congress Party would try to work with the Communist Party of Nepal (Marxist-Leninist).

But Mr. Deuba also issued a warning to all bureaucrats loyal to the previous Communist government: support his economic reforms or face possible dismissal.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Mr. Deuba said his predecessor, Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari, had risked bankruptcy by introducing populist programmes to win votes.

"My biggest challenge will be to bring the economy back onto the right track by reintroducing the economic liberalisation policies of my party," Mr. Deuba said in his office.

The previous government tried to convert Nepal's bureaucracy into a Communist one, not a democratic one, he said.

"I will first warn civil servants that they will not be allowed to politicise their work. As professionals it is their duty to carry out orders. Those who do not could be dismissed."

Mr. Deuba's centrist Nepali Congress Party formed a coalition government Monday after Mr. Adhikari's Communist Party of Nepal lost a no-confidence vote in the House of Representatives.

During his nine months in power, Mr. Adhikari pro-

moted many leftist loyalists in Nepal's bureaucracy and appointed others as directors of its many state-owned companies.

He also slowed down the economic reforms that the previous Congress party government had introduced in 1991 and began populist programmes widely regarded as costly and poorly planned.

For example, the 4,000 villages in this impoverished nation were given "build your own village" grants of \$16,000 each and allowed to spend them for any development project they chose.

Nearly 60,000 landless Nepalis received "ownership certificates" for small tracts of state-owned property.

In a country where government employees are the only workers who generally receive pensions, Mr. Adhikari's government cut off all Nepalis over 75 to small pensions.

Before being ousted Sunday, Mr. Adhikari's cabinet had proposed a 1995-1996 budget that World Bank sources predicted would leave this poor country with a mounting fiscal deficit.

But the budget was scrapped when Mr. Adhikari's government fell, and a new one is being prepared by Mr. Deuba's new cabinet.

The House of Representa-

tives, which began a new session Thursday, is expected to receive it for approval soon.

During the interview, Mr. Deuba refused to discuss details of his budget, but he raised the possibility of preserving the popular "build your own village" programme by taking steps to make sure that each hamlet uses the money properly.

In the meantime, he said he will step up economic reforms designed to attract as much foreign investment as possible in Nepal, a country where most people are still farmers.

Handmade woolen carpets and readymade clothes are the country's top two exports. Foreign companies have opened hotels in Nepal for the many tourists the country attracts, especially for trekking and climbing through its Himalayan Mountains.

"Nobody is going to invest here for industry. We don't have such a market," Mr. Deuba said. "But we will seek foreign investment in areas such as tourism and hydroelectric projects."

Mr. Deuba could have a tough time winning over voters and the opposition with free-market reforms that could take a long time to help poor people, especially Nepal's many small-time farmers.

Grant, Hurley plan movie project

HOLLYWOOD, California (R) — British actor Hugh Grant plans to star in a medical thriller he would also co-produce with long-time girlfriend Elizabeth Hurley, a studio official said. Castle Rock Entertainment spokesman John Desimio said the project, which is still being negotiated, would be Grant's first since his June arrest for having oral sex with a Hollywood prostitute. The arrest and subsequent lurid headlines angered Hurley, but Grant sought her forgiveness and the pair at least seem to enjoy a working relationship. Mr. Desimio said the Extreme Measures screenplay, written by Tooy Gilroy (who adapted Stephen King's (Dolores Claiborne) is about a doctor who investigates a suspicious case and jeopardises his career trying to uncover a frightening truth. He said on other stars have been signed yet and did not know when the movie would get the green light.

Heroin addicts offered one-way bus ticket

DARWIN, Australia (AFP) — Australia's Northern Territory has announced a novel scheme to deal with its heroin addicts — giving them one-way bus tickets to other states. Northern Territory Health Minister Fred Finck said his government would offer addicts one-way bus tickets to other states because methadone drug treatment was not available in the territory.

Mr. Finck told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Radio he was not keen to send addicts by air. "As for which is safer a bus or a plane, I don't know if I'd be too keen to be sitting next to someone who's in a bad state of withdrawal on a plane," Finck said. "At least with the bus you can put 'em off at the next stop, can't you?" bus companies reacted sceptically Friday.

Stephen Jones, chief executive of Pioneer-Greyhound Coachlines, said drivers were under instructions to refuse entry to anyone visibly affected by alcohol "or any other substance. We are not going to be a repository for drug addicts injecting themselves," he said.

Beatles lyrics sell record price

LONDON (AP) — Paul McCartney's handwritten lyrics for "Gettin' Better," sold for £161,000 (\$249,550), a record price for a pop music manuscript, the auctioneer Sotheby's said. The sale of rock 'n' roll memorabilia, including posters and guitar straps, totaled £739,000 (\$1.15 million), Sotheby's said. Gettin' Better was on Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album released by the Beatles in 1967. The manuscript was bought by an anonymous telephone bidder at an auction of rock memorabilia. Sotheby's said. The price for Gettin' Better beats the previous record for a pop music manuscript set at Sotheby's in 1992 — £48,500 (\$74,200) for John Lennon's lyrics for "A Day In The Life." McCartney's original handwritten lyrics for "Ob-la-di Ob-la-da" written in 1968 with a blue ballpoint pen, sold for £30,582 (\$47,400), also to an anonymous telephone bidder, Sotheby's said.

French filmmaker honored

FRANKFURT (AP) — Jean-Luc Godard, the French avant-garde filmmaker, is to be awarded the Adorno Prize for a lifetime of artistic achievement, city officials said. Mayor Claudia Roth will present the 50,000 Mark (\$35,000) prize Sunday to Godard, 64-year-old director of Breathless, My Life To Live, Every Man For Himself and 30 other films and video projects. Godard is "one of the great aesthetic avant-gardists of the 20th century," said the award announcement from the city of Frankfurt.

FBI takes centre stage in Simpson trial

LOS ANGELES (R) — The O.J. Simpson double-murder trial took another twist as court papers showed the football legend's defence team was preparing to use one FBI agent to demonstrate that another agent was capable of fabricating evidence.

In what was seen as a victory for Simpson's defence team, a judge in Washington, D.C., ordered Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) supervising agent Frederic Whitehurst to appear in court in Los Angeles because Judge Lance Ito, in charge of the Simpson trial, had found him material to the case.

According to Simpson's defence team, Mr. Whitehurst will testify that he caught agent Roger Martz in a "sing" over the bombing by Muslim extremists of the World Trade Centre in New York, by leaving out certain explosive components that Mr. Martz said he found in examining the evidence.

One of Simpson's defence attorneys, Robert Blasier, in a declaration to Judge Ito, said he had reviewed reports generated by Mr. Whitehurst concerning allegations that Mr. Martz had "committed perjury in other cases with respect to his training expertise and findings in other cases, which include the World Trade Centre bombing case."

In the Simpson case, Mr. Martz testified earlier that blood he tested contained no significant amounts of the preservative EDTA, going against the defence theory that detectives planted blood samples from Simpson and the victims at his multi-million-dollar estate and his car.

But according to papers filed by Mr. Blasier, Mr. Martz has a "habit and custom" of changing FBI reports, removing information that he thinks might be helpful to the defence, knowingly suppresses information that might be helpful to defence and harmful to

prosecutors, and has testified falsely in a number of cases.

In other developments on Thursday, FBI scientist Doug Deedrick said blood imprints on the jeans worn by victim Ronald Goldman, identified by a defence expert as being made by a shoe, could have been made by Goldman's shirt brushing his jeans as he fought his assailant.

Defence expert Dr. Henry Lee had previously suggested that the blood pattern on the jeans was consistent with shoe prints, raising the possibility that two people were responsible for the murders.

The first set of clearly defined bloody shoe prints were found leading away from the murder scene.

Goldman was stabbed to death along with Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, outside her luxury home last year. Simpson pleaded not guilty to the murders.

Caribbean isles brace for 2nd hurricane in a week

POINT-A-PITRE (AFP) — Hurricane Marilyn Friday threatened to brush past several Caribbean islands still recovering from another devastating storm that hit them last week.

Packing winds of up to 140 kilometres per hour, Marilyn skirted Guadeloupe late Thursday, severing telephone links with the southern part of the French-ruled island but otherwise causing minor damage, according to reports from the area.

A state of alert was lifted at midnight by Meteor France, the local weather service, but strong winds still buffeted this capital, leaving several sectors without electricity.

A hurricane warning was issued late Thursday for Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and British Virgin Islands, all north of Guadeloupe.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, Governor Pedro Rosello said the storm could hit the U.S. territory by Friday, and ordered all schools, universities and public buildings to stay closed.

At 0400 GMT, Marilyn, the 13th storm of a hurricane season shaping up to be one of the busiest on record, was located 50 kilometres northeast of Guadeloupe heading northwest at 21 kilometres per hour.

Seas of up to four metres were recorded around Guadeloupe, with a tidal surge of around one metre.

Forecasters expect the storm to pass 100 kilometres from the French island of St. Barthelemy and Franco-Dutch St. Martin to the north, both of which were ravaged last week by hurricane Luis.

Since hurricane-force winds extend up to 50 kilometres from the storm's centre, both islands will hopefully be spared the brunt of Marilyn, which was classified as a minor, or category one hurricane with winds between 119 and 153 kilometres per hour. The storm's broad swath of winds spanned 230 kilometres, and the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said it was bringing 12 to 20 centimetres of rain, posing the threat of flash floods and mudslides.

Earlier Thursday, Marilyn brushed Barbados with sustained winds up to 105 kilometres per hour. No major damage was reported.

In the French island of Martinique, north of Barbados, witnesses reported that violent winds had ripped roofs off homes and uprooted trees, as authorities closed schools, postponed exams, and shut the airport.

Marilyn was churning through the Caribbean just a week after Luis, the most powerful storm in years, battered several Caribbean islands and left at least 11 dead and thousands homeless.

Meanwhile the luxury British liner QE2 was hit by a tidal wave as it crossed the Atlantic, its captain said Friday.

Captain Ronald Warwick, who was on the bridge with four crewmen when the wave hit, said: "It was bit scary. It looked as if we were going straight into the white cliffs of Dover, real white-knuckle stuff."

"It was the highest wave I have seen in 38 years at sea," he told Sky Television.

The 95-foot (30-metre) wave, caused by the seas being whipped up by hurricane Luis, hit the ship bows-on. The wave was so huge that its crest was at bridge level.

Most of the 1,200 passengers were asleep. Capt. Warwick ordered people to stay below decks as the ship was hit by the massive wall of water. No one was injured.

Cunard spokesman Eric Flounders said the ship had been south of Newfoundland, near the Grand Banks, when it encountered the storm Monday night. At no point was the QE2 in danger.

Bhutto withdraws treason charges against Sharif

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto withdrew treason charges — a crime that carries the death penalty — against Nawaz Sharif, her arch rival and former prime minister, as well as several other leading opposition legislators, news reports said Friday.

Mr. Sharif, who now heads the opposition in parliament, his former interior minister, Shujaat Hussain and several members of the opposition were among 15 people charged several months ago with treason.

At the time it was feared that the charges would worsen an already tense standoff between Ms. Bhutto's government and opposition legislators, who have been demanding her resignation due to the country's political and economic problems.

It wasn't immediately clear why Ms. Bhutto ordered the charges dropped or whether it signalled a thaw in relations between her and her political opponents.

The treason charges against Mr. Sharif referred to a June 1993 incident when he was prime minister, the authorities said. He was accused of subverting the constitution in an attempt to gain control of Punjab province.

Mr. Sharif levelled similar

charges against Ms. Bhutto earlier this week after her Pakistan People's Party and its allies took control of the Punjab province from her political opponents.

The contest for the Punjab province, the largest and most powerful of Pakistan's four provinces, was a critical one for Ms. Bhutto.

Mr. Sharif was forced to resign as prime minister in July 1993 after losing control of the Punjab province.

Ms. Bhutto's party won a slim victory in general elections in October 1993 and she now heads a coalition government.

Since then she and Mr. Sharif have been bitter opponents. Mr. Sharif has accused Ms. Bhutto of using the judicial system to harass and intimidate her political opponents, a charge she denies.

However several opposition politicians either are in jail or awaiting trial on charges ranging from illegal possession of firearms to fraud.

Earlier this year Mr. Sharif's former Culture and Industry Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad was sentenced to seven years in jail for possessing an unregistered firearm, an unusually harsh sentence in a country where most people possess a gun and few register them.

Major drafts blueprint for election victory

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major has set out a strategy to keep his Conservatives in power until the 21st century by promising a crackdown on crime and fresh efforts to rein in Britain's runaway welfare state.

After a day-long brainstorming session of ministers that he had dubbed the biggest review of British government policy for two decades, Mr. Major also heralded new help for small businesses and a further drive to raise educational standards.

But the unusual cabinet meeting, held at Mr. Major's official country residence north of London, was overshadowed by the leak of an official document highlighting the weaknesses of the ruling party's record on education.

The paper warned that insufficient funding threatened the provision of education in state schools — a politically explosive issue for millions of Britons wondering whether to give the Conservatives a fifth consecutive term in office at the next general election.

Study shows Europe's important differences

BRUSSELS (AP) — Danes frown on cigarette smoking, but think nothing of pre-marital sex. Greeks wait till their wedding night, but relax by smoking 3,000 cigarettes a year. These and other Euro-tidbits are to be found in a 500-page yearbook released Thursday by the European Union's (EU) statistics office.

The Eurostat compilation of 10 years of figures shows just how far the EU has to go to achieve its grand design of uniting the diverse peoples of the continent.

The Greeks and Danes frequently find themselves at opposing ends of the scale.

Around half Danish babies are born to unmarried couples, compared to only 3 per cent in Greece. Health-conscious Denmark has the fewest smokers, going through only half as many cigarettes as the Greeks.

Greeks are the EU's most religious people. Eighty-seven per cent think religion is important in their lives. Only 28 per cent of Danes feel the same way.

Elsewhere, 99 per cent of Italians think work is an important factor in their lives. The British apparently are more relaxed, with 20 per cent saying work does not play an important role.

But are the Brits having more fun? Maybe so. They spend 3.2 per cent of their wages on "entertainment, recreation and cultural services" — more than any other nation.

Dour Belgians appear to spend the least on enjoying themselves, just 1.5 per cent — although figures on Germany's level of fun-loving were strangely unavailable.

The Europeans can't agree on what to teach their children. The British and French think tolerance and respect for others is the quality they should most encourage in their offspring.

Greeks set most store on good manners. The Portuguese give a high priority to hard work, while the Dutch want to pass on a love of life.

Only 2 per cent of EU parents considered appreciation of beauty important — and most of those were German.

As for speaking each other's languages, Luxembourg has the most polyglots — 99 per cent speak something other than Luxembourgish. The Portuguese are Europe's worst linguists — 61 per cent speak no foreign language.

When it comes to drinking, the wine-guzzling French are way out front, knocking back an equivalent of 14.8 litres (31 pints) of pure alcohol a year.

Sober Swedes, stymied by high liquor taxes, limit themselves to 6 litres (14 pints).

Maybe that explains why they have the lowest death-rate from road accidents, just 6 per 100,000.

In Portugal, however, its best to take care when driving. With 45 deaths per 100,000 it has the most dangerous roads of the 15 EU nations.

The Netherlands has the highest murder rate — 15 killings per 100,000 people. That compares to just 1 per 100,000 in Ireland and Finland.

Those dangerous Dutch even outpace the United States which has a 9 per 100,000 murder rate, although the report warns that differences in legal definitions of murder may distort the figures.

The report compiles statistics gathered by the Luxembourg-based Eurostat over the past 10 years. Subjects covered range to life expectancy to the percentage of land area planted with olive trees.

Belarus faces U.S. wrath over downing of balloon

MINSK (R) — Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, a pro-Russian maverick, faces U.S. wrath over why his country's military shot down a hot air balloon and killed two Americans.

The White House and U.S. State Department heaped scorn on Belarusian explanations Thursday that a helicopter gunship downed the balloon taking part in a race because its identity was unclear and it had entered a strategically sensitive area.

Mr. Lukashenko has yet to comment publicly Tuesday's incident near the border with Poland, except to issue an order opening criminal proceedings over the action. Two commissions have until Oct. 1 to investigate the matter.

On Thursday, he issued a decree accepting the resignation of Belarus's liberal central bank chairman, effectively ridding himself of the most vocal opponent of his drive to integrate his country of 10 million with neighbouring Russia.

Belarus's First Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Tsepkalo accepted a degree of guilt over the balloon incident. But other senior officials also apportioned blame to the two American pilots, race organisers and even Polish air traffic officials.

Yuri Sivakov of Belarus's National Security Council said authorities had not received formal notice of the race, which began in Switzerland last Saturday.

"We received no such notice and we gave no formal agreement to organisers," he said. "All this led to what happened."

The helicopter gunship shot down the balloon after it ignored warning shots and calls to identify itself, Mr. Sivakov said. Two other balloons had landed safely after showing national flags, he added.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry dismissed the account, saying there was "some circumstantial evidence that would seem to suggest that it was not necessarily a tragic mistake and we're trying to get to the bottom of that now."

Grachev: Chechenya pullout too early

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev has said it is too early to withdraw troops from the breakaway Chechenya region since rebels there had not yet surrendered their weapons.

"In my view the situation in the republic does not allow us to do this," he told Interfax News Agency.

Anatoly Romanov, Russia's commander in Chechenya, said Wednesday that 8,000 Interior Ministry troops had been withdrawn under a military agreement that also called for rebels to disarm.

Gen. Grachev said this was a complete surprise to him and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was also bewildered.

The situation in the trans-Caucasus region was "not as rosy as it is sometimes made out to be," Gen. Grachev said. "Weapons, as a rule, were being given up by people who did not take part in military activities."

Oleg Lobov, President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy to Chechenya, told a government commission meeting that the pace of work to repair damage from the conflict had to be speeded up.

"I have never seen such destruction before and, if work proceeds at the present rate, it will take 20 years to restore (the regional capital) Grozny alone," Interfax quoted him as saying.

Russia sent troops to Chechenya last December to end the region's now four-year-old drive for independence from Russia. Thousands of people have been killed in fighting and many more have fled their homes.

The two sides agreed Wednesday that the rebels should hand in all their heavy weapons by Sept. 20. ITAR-TASS news agency said only 1,250 guns had been surrendered so far.

while 50,000 to 80,000 firearms were still at large.

The Chechens say the presence of Russian troops makes many fighters reluctant to give up their weapons. Sporadic clashes have continued despite a ceasefire agreement.

A Russian soldier was killed and eight others wounded in clashes over the past 24 hours between Russian and separatist forces in Chechenya, Russian army sources said Friday.

Russian positions were hit by 22 shells including 18 in Grozny during a day of shelling, a spokesman for the Russian federal forces said.

On Friday a Russian armoured vehicle hit a car in the centre of Grozny killing a passenger and injuring two others. Around 300 people surrounded the vehicle to stop it driving away but the crowd dispersed peacefully after the crew was taken

away for questioning over the incident.

Meanwhile, a Russian-Chechen committee attempting to implement the military accord met to ease friction over the surrender of weapons, Russian officials said.

The sides gathered to discuss difficulties applying the accord and to analyse Russian claims that they do not have enough money to buy arms off Chechen fighters as suggested in the military accord.

On Thursday the accord appeared shaky after a leading Chechen negotiator said Chechen separatists would stop surrendering weapons if Moscow did not force pro-Russian militias to disarm.

Khodzh-Akhmed Yerikhanov, who heads the peace negotiations, said groups loyal to Moscow protégé Salambek Khadzhiyev had not been laying down their arms.

37 die as Malaysia plane crashes on shantytown

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — A Malaysian Airlines plane crashed while landing Friday and plowed through a shantytown near the runway, killing at least 37 of the 53 people on board, officials said.

More people were killed in their homes, crushed by the burning Fokker F-50, said police in Tawau town where the crash occurred.

Hospital officials contacted in Tawau said at least eight people, including two crew members, survived, and 37 were killed. The fate of the remaining 16 people was not immediately known.

The airline had originally said 49 people were on board but later corrected the figure to 53.

Malaysian Airlines Chairman Tajudin Ramli said the plane overshot the runway and landed on the shantytown.

He said the five-year-old plane had been serviced Wednesday and a mandatory check had revealed no technical defects. Weather and visibility also were good Friday.

"We are not aware that any distress signal was sent out," Ramli told reporters. He refused to speculate if the crash was caused by pilot error. He also refused to confirm the death toll.

One of the survivors, Tawau Prison Superintendent Jaws Sinau, was quoted by the Malaysian News Agency, Bernama, as saying the "plane suddenly dived and crashed into houses outside the perimeter of the airport."

Another survivor was quoted as saying that he fled amid cries from other passengers.

Flight MH-2133, which came down at 1:20 p.m. local time (0520 GMT), was carrying 49 passengers including a baby, as well as two pilots and two flight attendants.

The Dutch-made plane crashed at the end of its one-hour domestic flight in Sabah state from Sabah capital Kota Kinabalu to Tawau.

There didn't appear to be any foreigners on board as all names on the passenger list sounded Malaysian. The four crew members also were Malaysian.

Residents contacted in Tawau, home to about 200,000 people on the coast of Celebes Sea, said they

heard a loud boom at the time of the crash and saw smoke billowing from the direction of the airport.

The plane came down on the runway and punched through a row of 20 houses at the edge of the runway, said a police official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Residents said the damaged houses were unauthorised slums built by illegal immigrants from the Philippines and Indonesia who have streamed into Sabah to work in construction, timber camps and cocoa and oil plantations.

Tawau is 1,165 kilometres east of Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur. Sabah is on Borneo Island, which Malaysia shares with Brunei and Indonesia.

Greek exporters long for end to Balkan sanctions

SALONIKA, Greece (R) — Greek exporters, badly hit by Balkan sanctions, are crossing their fingers that a U.S.-brokered pact between Athens and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will signal a return to lost markets.

In a small but auspicious move for peace in the strife-torn Balkans, the two states normalised ties at U.N. Headquarters this week in a deal that could end Greece's crippling embargo on its neighbour within 30 days.

Northern exporters, who account for 90 per cent of

firms in the sector and 53 per cent of current export revenue, lost a key market when Athens slapped the embargo on the former Yugoslav republic (FYROM) last year.

Already strait-jacketed by U.N. sanctions on Belgrade, exporters saw their profits slump and product range shrink in a double blow to the country's industry.

"Export losses have cost us about \$5 billion. We always wanted talks to end the strife in ex-Yugoslavia, our traditional customer," Director Iordanis Adamidis

of the Northern Greek Exporters Association told Reuters.

Operating fearlessly in shoestring economies and Byzantine red tape in the former Communist states, plucky Greek traders have evolved a tight network of contacts and knowhow of countries that still baffle northern Europeans.

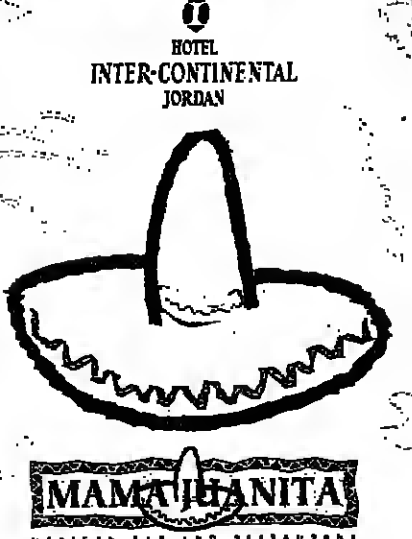
The dispute with FYROM, which initially had strong support in second-city Salonika, sprang from fears the new republic would make territorial claims on Greece's Macedonia region,

implicit in its choice of name, constitution and flag.

"We'll see what happens in 30 days. If the embargo goes then we may be able to get back most of our business in three to six months," Mr. Adamidis said.

Exports to FYROM were rising and worth 127 million ECU (\$160 million) before sanctions in February 1994.

German and Italian rivals who elbowed into FYROM and upped their exports may be hard to shift. "We will sell at prices reasonable for FYROM's economy," Mr. Adamidis said.



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Effort for Algeria

ARAB LEAGUE's decision to respond favourably to Algeria's request to take part in the supervision of the upcoming presidential elections is a further evidence of the Arab World's interest in seeing an end to civil strife and bloodshed in that country. The Algerian government has called on the Arab League as well as on the U.N. and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to monitor the Nov. 16 elections as an additional sign that it is determined to conduct fair elections.

Algeria's decision to go ahead with the poll despite an escalating campaign of violence by militants who vowed to disrupt it, is a gamble that may or may not work. Having itself stopped national elections more than three years ago when Islamists appeared poised to win them is a record that could not be easily erased. More than 30,000 people have been killed ever since. The Algerian authorities need to make a solemn and convincing commitment this time that they will honour the results whatever they may be. And in order to have genuine elections, the country needs representative candidates from the various political currents.

Even more pressing than presidential polls, Algeria needs national parliamentary elections in lieu of those that were arbitrarily halted in January of 1992. Whether presidential or parliamentary, all such elections call for a climate conducive to a democratic atmosphere in which all political parties and trends committed to the rule of law could conduct their campaigns freely. Opposition groups using violence to achieve their political ends should suspend their activities in return for a clear and unequivocal pledge from the central government, including the military establishment, that it too will observe a "cease fire" and a suspension of all efforts to apprehend members of the opposition prior to the elections. A climate of tolerance and an amnesty should be granted on both sides of the fence before the Algerian people can be expected to go to the polls freely. This much has yet to be worked out between the two sides and this is where the Arab League as well as the U.N. and the OAU can play their bridging role and accomplish their mission for peace and democracy.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i strongly criticised the Libyan authorities for expelling Palestinians and other nationalities from the country. Many of whom, especially Palestinians, remain stranded at sea and in the desert near the borders with Egypt. Ahmad Melseh said that it is strange and shocking to the whole Arab Nation to see Libya committing this outrageous act while its leadership continues to brag about Arab unity and being keen on safeguarding pan-Arab interests. As if it were not enough for the Palestinians who are struggling to secure their freedom from Israeli occupation, Libya is now adding to the oppressed people's sufferings and aggravating the situation, added the writer. The Libyans who have been raising the slogan of pan-Arab unity and bragging about their struggle against the enemies of the Arab World are now joining the ranks of these enemies and have become the new oppressors of the Palestinian people, said the writer. It is indeed shocking to see Libya, which is facing international sanctions and urging the Arab states to give it support for ending the embargo on the Libyan people, resorting to such shameful acts against those people who have been building the country for decades, he said. With this outrageous action which must be condemned by all civilised nations, said the writer, Libya is taking a determined step to tighten the noose around the Palestinian people.

AL RA'I Arabic daily commented on the Emir of Qatar's visit to Jordan by stressing that it is made to reaffirm the need for Jordan and Qatar to pursue constant consultations and coordination in their stands vis-a-vis pan-Arab issues and matters of common interest. The paper said that the visit marked a new stage in Qatari-Jordanian moves to enhance solidarity among the Arab countries in the wake of the Arab Gulf crisis that created tension and kept the Arab states apart. Noting that Qatar and Jordan were among the few Arab states which are seeking an end to differences among Arab governments, the paper said the exchanged visits, the consultations and the identical views and policies between the two sides are setting a good example for the rest of the Arab countries to follow. Needless to say, said the paper, that the Qatari and Jordanian leaderships are sincere in their drive to rally the Arab World towards working collectively for the common objectives, adding that they are aware of the challenges facing the Arab states and are determined to revitalise inter-Arab cooperation and saw the Arab order especially in view of the ongoing efforts to attain a comprehensive peace in the Arab region.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Situation in Hebron — culture of hatred that encourages violence

THE REPEATED attacks by settlers on a Palestinian school in Hebron and the confrontations between the residents of the town and settlers — with Israeli soldiers thrown in for good measure — are symptomatic of the way Israelis have come to regard the West Bank in 23 years of occupation. Throughout the period, they have been taught that the West Bank is part of the "promised land" that should be controlled, no matter what, by Jews. That perhaps explains the anger of the Hebron settlers towards Palestinians who raise the Palestinian flag in the city that settlers see as the bastion of Jewish nationalism. But the actual blame for the root cause of the problem in Hebron, as elsewhere in the West Bank, should be laid squarely at the door of Israeli politicians who have, over the years, done everything to assure the settlers that their presence in the West Bank would be eternal.

Today, the same political leaders who have led the colonisation of the West Bank since 1967 are trying to tell the settlers the territory might not be part of the "promised land" after all and they may have to quit the area. Seen against that background, the settlers' resistance to the idea of moving out of Hebron, the only Palestinian town where settlers live amidst Palestinians, is understandable. However, one fails to see how a solution could be reached to overcome the logjam in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations without a formula that leads to the eventual removal of the Kiyat Arba settlers, who are among the most militant in Israeli society.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres stand out among Israeli leaders who point to the absurdity of letting 400 settlers hold hostage the entire Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, simply by their presence in Hebron among 120,000 Palestinians. But we have seen little of practical action by the Israeli leaders to

break the deadlock.

Given that Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres have electoral politics to take into consideration next year, we may not see any action at all.

That leaves the problem very much on the ground, exposing one of the key flaws — or shortcomings — in the Rabin government's approach to convincing Israelis of the need to make peace with Palestinians. We have yet to hear any Israeli leader affirming in public that the West Bank and Gaza do not belong to Israelis or that the territories are stolen lands that have to be returned to their rightful owners. What we are hearing instead is a loud proclamation of the need to ensure the "security and safety" of the Jewish settlements that have become part of the landmark in the West Bank, rather than hearing of the logic of returning the occupied territories as the pillar of any peace agreement with the Palestinians. Quite simply, the Rabin government and the dominant Labour Party have done very little to nurture a culture of peace among Israelis.

Indeed, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres are pussyfooting around the real issue at stake by trying to reveal to the Palestinians as little as possible of their real intentions about and expectations from the peace negotiations. That may or may not be a sound negotiating strategy, but it is the same ambiguity that is encouraging the settlers to continue their arrogant and violent behaviour against the Palestinians.

It is not too late now for Mr. Rabin and others to confront their people and attempt to convince them of the need to understand the reality of the situation and accept that the West Bank is Palestinian and should be returned to the Palestinians regardless of what the Israeli society has been led to believe for decades.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Expulsion of Palestinians from Libya — blatant violation of human rights

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

THE EXPULSION of Palestinians and other nationalities from Libya, the situation in the occupied Arab territories and pan-Arab and domestic affairs were covered prominently in the local Arabic daily newspapers in the past week.

In an attempt to abort the peace process, the Libyan leadership has resorted to expelling the Palestinians from Libya with the result that the expelled people remain stranded in the sea, off Lebanon, or in the desert, near the Egyptian border, said Mufid Nahleh, a writer in Al Ra'i. The expulsion of the Palestinians and others is a violation of human rights and an outrageous act against people who contributed to building Libya over many years, said the writer. The Libyans who flouted human rights by committing their condemned action have done so despite their realisation that neither Egypt nor Lebanon would accept the Palestinians who would also be barred from entering the Gaza Strip by the Israeli authorities.

It was the Libyan leadership that encouraged the Palestinians and the other Arab nationals to go to Libya and help build the country decades ago, stressing that there should be no borders separating an Arab country from another, said Salah Qallab, a writer in Al Dustour. The writer said that the expulsion of the Palestinians who have been active in the construction of Libya have nowhere to go as Egypt and Lebanon which granted them travel documents are closed to them and Israel is barring their entry into the Gaza Strip. Libya's action should be condemned but the silence of Arab and foreign nations vis-a-vis this shameful act is also to be deplored as they appear to be condoning this crime.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer in Al Ra'i, said while the expelled Egyptians and Sudanese can return to their homeland, the Palestinians are barred from doing so by the Israeli authorities and prevented from entering Egypt and Lebanon although they carry these two countries' travel documents. Depriving the Palestinians of the right to return and keeping them stranded in the desert or at sea is a crime that should be condemned by the world community, said the writer.

Muhammad Qadhafi realises too well that the expelled

Palestinians will be barred from entering the occupied Arab territories in Palestine but he is insisting on going ahead with the expulsion, claiming that it would about the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, added the writer.

He said that Israel bears a serious responsibility towards the Palestinian people whose lands it has occupied for decades, and therefore should open the door for their return if it means to achieve peace with its Arab neighbours.

Taher Al Adwan, a writer in Al Dustour, urged the Arab League to move rapidly to deal with the question of expulsions from Libya. The writer said that the Arab Nation as a whole bears the responsibility for the Palestinians whose homeland is still occupied and have nowhere to go and the Arabs should find a way to accommodate them.

At least the Arab League can help the expelled Palestinians to return to the country where they obtained travel documents enabling them to travel to Libya years ago, called the writer.

It is true that Libya bears the prime responsibility for the crime against the Palestinians, but the Arab Nation and Israel bear equal responsibility towards helping settle these unfortunate people who have a right to be repatriated, concluded the writer.

Al Dustour discussed the ongoing events in occupied West Bank town of Hebron saying that Israel's intransigent position and its procrastination are delaying the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement.

The paper referred to the recent brutal practices committed by the Jewish settlers and the Israeli forces against the girl students and the Hebron residents and said that these crimes will not only delay the expansion of the Palestine self-rule but will also undermine the peace process itself.

The paper said that the implementation of the second phase is already 16 months late and Israel is still undecided about pulling out its troops and settlers from the Arab town and instead it is resorting to brutal force to quell the Arab protests.

The paper urged the United States, which is sponsoring the Arab-Israeli peace process, to intervene and force Israel to abide by its commitments and honour its deals with the Palestinians.

remains deadlocked, said Mohammad Kawash in Al Dustour.

The writer said two years passed but the obstacles in the way of achieving a settlement on the ground are mounting, with the Israelis dragging their feet over the implementation of the agreement.

So far Israel has rejected Palestinian demands for releasing the Arab detainees, refused to "expand the self-rule" to the other parts of occupied Palestine and is holding on to its position vis-a-vis Jerusalem, noted the writer. He said that as long as Israel is adamant nothing can be achieved and no peace will ever be established.

The second anniversary of the Oslo agreement passed on September 13 but the Palestinians have not been able to achieve its second phase which provides for expanding the self-rule areas to include other parts of Palestine, said Mohammad Kharoub in Al Ra'i.

What has been achieved so far is very little and new obstacles are being laid by the Israelis in the path of a settlement, like Israel's intention to keep troops in Hebron to protect the settlers there, added the writer.

He said that Israel's delay in redeploying its troops, its failure to arrange for the Palestinians to hold elections and its failure to release the detained Arabs are causing confusion and driving many Palestinians to a state of despair.

In light of these developments the different Palestinian factions ought to rally their ranks and end their petty differences and make determined efforts to help achieve their national aspirations.

Hamad Faraneh, a writer in Al Dustour, expressed the view that the mutual interests of Iraq and Jordan forced them to overcome their political differences and give preference to economic benefits and advantages which the two sides will reap.

Referring to the projected oil pipeline from Iraq to Jordan which the two countries have approved in Baghdad recently, the writer said that the project could be instrumental in enhancing the peace between the Arabs and the Israelis if the pipeline is extended to Palestinian lands and reaches the Mediterranean Sea.

Indeed, the project is supported by the United States and will benefit Jordan, Iraq, Palestine and Israel because Jordan needs only 70,000 barrels a day, while the rest can find its way to world markets.

He said that it would not be surprising to see American firms involved in financing and executing the project in

the near future.

Criticising the United Nations Organisation for maintaining the embargo on Iraq, Fakhr Kassar, a writer in Al Dustour, said that independent sources have put the number of dead children under five at 529,124 in 1994 alone, largely due to the sanctions which prevent Iraq from selling oil to buy medicine and food.

The writer said that surgical operations and laboratory tests in the Iraqi hospitals have declined by almost 70 per cent due to the shortage of equipment and materials used in such operations. Noting that the Iraqis have carried out all U.N. Security Council resolutions, the writer said that there is no justification for the world community to maintain the sanctions.

Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud, a writer in Al Dustour, supported the idea of Parliament member Ibrahim Kilani who called on the government to adopt a national education strategy.

The writer said that the present members of the Council of Higher Education have failed to deal with the higher education question thus paving the way for the public outcry witnessed recently when the council announced the names of students accepted in state universities for the coming academic year.

He said the parliamentarian's request should be duly considered because Jordan is in urgent need of a strategy on education which should be closely linked to the development process and the requirements of the local labour market.

The writer urged the government and the Ministry of Higher Education to take practical steps to carry out this strategy which Jordan needs to face the mounting challenges in social and economic fields.

A writer in Al Ra'i discussed the ever rising cost of living in Jordan, saying that there is a big difference between figures published by the Department of Statistics and the actual figures in the market.

Jamal Naji said that while the department has been saying that the cost of living did not exceed 8.9 per cent between 1992 and 1995, the market prices speak otherwise.

The writer said that there is a big difference between the government prices as published in the daily press about basic consumer goods and the actual prices which the consumers pay.

Calling for a revision of the department's figures, the writer said that a careful analysis of the prices in the market will reveal the facts, and the government can take steps to deal with the situation.

LETTERS

A commitment to carry on

To the Editor:

THE STATUS of women in Jordan is a topic that has gained importance and in fact has become the centre of many discussions. It is to be admitted, that during the past three years, under the umbrella of the National Platform for Women, a lot has been achieved in the direction of improving conditions for women in a community that is male dominated. Apparently, there is an increasing recognition and appreciation for the women, whose active presence, not only in our daily lives, but also in the decision-making circles has become a reality. Naturally, this is only the beginning of a long and tough road, a road full of obstacles and many challenges.

At a time of dramatic global change, we sometimes feel out of breath in catching up with the new realities, and find it difficult to swiftly absorb what's new in the world of politics, economics and shocking to learn that women in some parts of this modern world are still exposed to cruel, medieval treatment and subjected to all forms of violence and abuse in total violation of fundamental human rights.

The painful memories of atrocities committed against women in the former Yugoslavia, still give us the creeps when recalling the horrifying stories of rape camps. There, women were stripped of their identity and honour in acts of revenge. Unfortunately, history has recorded thousands of similar acts of extreme wickedness, something, mankind definitely is not to be proud of.

The Fourth World Conference on Women, the biggest women gathering of its kind on issues concerning women, took place at a right time, at a time of social and cultural change. At this unique forum, hosting 181 countries, women spoke freely and openly, addressed and tackled problems of multiple dimensions and sought effective and rapid solutions to matters of utmost urgency.

It is with pride and satisfaction that we followed up on Jordan's participation at the conference under the leadership of H.R.H. Princess Basma. A sincere tribute goes to the Princess for her tireless and noble efforts in promoting the role and image of the Jordanian women, both on the local and international levels. Princess Basma's devotion to work for, and support the cause of women is a reflection of her sincere desire to enhance the status of all Jordanian women, by continuously encouraging full utilisation of the high potential and talent women have in store.

Addressing the assembly, Princess Basma touched upon major women issues and stressed on the importance of persistently fighting poverty and illiteracy among women, especially in our region. By removing those major obstacles, the doors for equal opportunities and self-assertiveness will open wide for those who are ready to take a chance.

Women's participation in public life, does not mean, disintegration of the family unit, as many tend to believe. On the contrary, it will add a new element and flavour to harmoniously balanced family ties, and will create an atmosphere for creativity and deeper understanding of each other.

Rumiana M. Nuseibeh
Amman

A bad wine year

To the Editor:

I'VE ALWAYS wondered whether underground nuclear testing is bad for wine and if that is the reason why the French do not carry the tests on their own home soil.

The French government, in its usual diplomatic grace, has been assuring everybody, specially the Polynesians, that the tests are perfectly safe and harmless to French wine.

The Polynesians, it seems, along with the rest of the world, are somehow puzzled at the country of love, which might be falling out of love with itself. I've heard about spicing up a relationship but atomics seems like going a bit overboard.

The tests, one down six to go, are a routine check on France's nuclear deterrent capability, as if the last 200 were just mock trials. Since the tests are really not necessary we have to assume that French politicians have caught some sort of a virus that attacks their paranoid insecurities. The symptoms of the above disease are clearly visible in French nuclear policy whereby the patient exhibits a useless show of force to no-one in particular, aiming to remind everyone that France, despite a bad wine year, is still an ambitious second pretender to a real superpower. Ironically, the biggest symptom of that disease is a deficiency in showing any regard to world opinion.

On the other hand, it may be that the French language police is behind these tests wanting to rediscover all the components of the atoms and give them proper French names instead of neutron, proton, quarks, charm or beauty.

Naturally any other reason would indicate that the French government cares about the health of its ethnic French citizens on mainland France more than its Polynesian French citizens in French Polynesia. For a nation that is a strong advocate of human and animal rights, the above reason is clearly absurd.

Ahmad Tahbaa
Amman

Silence gone to the dogs

To the Editor:

SURPRISINGLY A week-long debate on the "environment" ended by the end of last month without a mention of "noise" pollution. The environment "pollution" should be related to the "six senses". Noise pollution is very important, and I believe, most difficult to avoid. Particularly disturbing is the barking of dogs, which are sometimes left on rooftops. Maybe it is not possible to prevent owning a dog, but there should be some rules to stop their noise and "pollution". I suggest that owners of dogs abide by the regulations that apply to contractors which state that from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. no construction should be carried out; or the hotel regulations whereby no music should be allowed outdoors after 11 p.m. Can anyone in the Amman Municipality, or whoever responsible, consider these suggestions?

Ghazi Qubein
Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

Rise of Jewish cannibals

By Mitchell G. Bard

REMEMBER long ago — say, as far back as two years — when with barely disguised glee we used to talk about the Arabs turning on each other if they ever made peace with Israel? Without hatred of Israel as a unifying force, the Arab World could be expected to disintegrate as old rivalries provoked new conflicts.

And the Palestinians? Given autonomy, they would engage in a civil war. So what has the peace process wrought? Most of the Arab states are getting along better than they ever have. It would be an overstatement to say the PLO has complete control over its rivals, but the prospects of the anticipated intercommunal bloodbath seem unlikely in the near future. Meanwhile, the Jews are responding to the mostly positive shifts in the region by moving towards anarchy.

Israel's democracy has always had a rough-and-tumble quality to it that occasionally turned nasty, such as politicians calling each other Nazis. Things have grown much worse in the last year. Yitzhak Rabin, a respected soldier and defence minister, is regularly called a traitor, and accused of ignorance of Israel's security needs. Certain rabbinic edicts that Jews in the army should disobey orders. Civil disobedience by settlers teeters on the brink of open rebellion against the state. Citizens heap scorn (and sometimes more) on officials, and get into confrontations with the police.

This is a light unto the nations? A civilised democracy? The culmination of the Zionist dream?

The insanity has spilled over to the U.S. A few months ago, a minister of the Israeli government, albeit a controversial one, was physically attacked by an American Jew. Pro-Israel organisations are picketing the Israeli embassy in Washington. Armchair quarter-backs attempt to call plays affecting Israeli security from their Lazy-Boys 10,000 km. away.

The zealots can rationalise that their actions are only a response to the outrages of terrorists, but that is disingenuous. Much of the behaviour has no direct relationship to Arab extremists; rather, it reflects contempt for the democra-

tic process. The attitude is typified by right-wing American Jews who have adopted the position that it's okay to attack the Israeli government publicly as long as their criticism is justified — a determination they alone are qualified to make.

Some Israelis are impatient with a system that will not allow them to alter the course of the elected government. They will have an opportunity a year from now to "throw the rascals out." But Mr. Rabin is creating "facts on the ground," they whine.

Where have I heard that complaint before? Critics may justly say Mr. Rabin was not elected with a mandate to take all the steps he has to achieve peace with Israel's neighbours. But leaders rarely are given such clear signals, and their courage to formulate and implement policies that are not immediately popular often distinguishes statesmen from political hacks.

Even with the unease in Israel, polls do not show a counter mandate for the right's agenda. Benjamin Netanyahu's position in the polls oscillates, and the right-wing parties show no signs of winning the kind of overwhelming victory in the Knesset that the Republicans achieved in the U.S. Congress.

We are now in a free fall, descending so rapidly towards political and perhaps moral collapse that the trend may be irreversible. No leader who can reunite the country or restore faith in the democratic system has appeared on the horizon. If anything, the prospect of divided government with a prime minister of one party and a Knesset majority from the opposition may accelerate the disintegration.

Has Zionism reached its zenith? Are Jews so secure we can afford to cannibalise ourselves?

Perhaps during this year of celebrating the history of Jerusalem, it would be wise to reflect on what happened to our people during the last 3,000 years, when we lost our moral compass and became divided.

The writer is a foreign policy analyst in Washington, D.C. and author of *The Water's Edge and Beyond: Defining the Limits to Domestic Influence on U.S. Middle East Policy*. The article is reprinted from the *Jerusalem Post*.

Pope finds crowded spiritual market in Africa

By Nicholas Kotch

Reuter

NAIROBI — Pope John Paul will enter an increasingly crowded spiritual market-place this week when he begins his 11th visit to Africa.

The Vatican counts nearly 100 million of the continent's 700 million people as Roman Catholics.

But the ranks of other religions are swelling as fast or even faster. Islam, Protestant denominations and countless Christian-inspired sects all report that business is booming.

"If you look well into an African you will find that he is the only person in the world who knows that God is always with him," said Jose Chipenda, the general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), explaining the grip of spirituality in the continent.

With each religion claiming a rush of converts, the issue for the Vatican is perhaps less about the quantity of its followers than about the quality of their faith.

The Pope will address that subject throughout his visit to Cameroon, South Africa and Kenya from Sept. 14-20.

He cannot avoid the birth control issue in the continent which holds most of

the records for the number of AIDS sufferers, child mothers and multiple pregnancies.

But his principal mission is to proclaim the results of last year's African Synod held at the Vatican. The Synod's key message was that African Catholics must continue to Evangelise but in ways that are adapted to the culture of their peoples and no longer welded to the church's European roots.

Yet this adaptation must not make unacceptable concessions to traditional animist beliefs — "rosary in the morning, witchcraft in the evening," in the words of one bishop.

"(The Pope) is coming to launch us on the work of the Evangelising mission of the church in Africa," said Father Peter Lwambi, secretary general of the Eastern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

"In a sense, this visit will mark the coming of age of the church in Africa," said Father Bnti Thagale, his opposite number in southern Africa.

But the Vatican has a fight on its hands for the souls of the poor and the dispossessed in Africa — the huge majority. Islam is growing in virtually every country, often from a tiny base. And Pentecostal sects like the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God,

which packs theatres in Mozambique's capital Maputo every week, are mushrooming.

The most common theory is that the established Christian denominations have simply moved too far from the common man.

Mr. Chipenda, whose AACC does not count the Catholic church among its full members, says that the mainstream Christian churches are too identified with Africa's small elite.

"When you are in a situation where those who have money-power, idea-power, political power and God-power seem to talk among themselves, of course the others say 'when are we going to have our leaders?'"

"It is up to us now to find out how we can offer leadership among those who are far from us," said Mr. Chipenda, an Angolan Protestant.

Matthew Kukah, head of the Catholic secretariat in Nigeria, disagrees. He says Christians are experimenting but soon abandon the sects when promised miracles fail to materialise.

"There is a lot of motion without movement. It is part of the big search because of the economic and social trauma people are going through," said Mr. Kukah.



Pope John Paul

Well-travelled Christopher goes east, west — not south

By George Gedda

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For decades, American secretaries of state have held sumptuous receptions for Latin American foreign ministers who showed up for the U.N. General Assembly in New York each fall. This year, Secretary of State Warren Christopher has decided not to bother.

Things are going so well for the United States in Latin America these days that Mr. Christopher doesn't have to pay much attention. In 32 months in office, he has been to the Middle East 13 times but has not been to Latin America except for a total of about 24 working hours on one quick trip to Mexico and two quicker trips to Haiti.

Of the 79 countries he has visited worldwide, Mexico and Haiti are the only

ones in the 33-nation Latin America-Caribbean region.

No secretary of state has made a serious visit to South America since George Shultz a week there in 1983 three months before he retired.

South America was off James Baker's global itinerary except for two four-hour visits to Colombia in 1990, neither having much to do with hemispheric policy. During his 3 years in office, he found time to go to Bishkek, capital of remote Kyrgyzstan, but not to Buenos Aires. Mr. Christopher has been to Kazakhstan but not Chile.

It would seem normal for an American secretary of state to attend the annual meeting of Organisation of American States (OAS) foreign ministers. But none has shown up since the 1989 meeting, which Mr. Baker attended; lower-level officials have been dispatched

instead.

Mr. Christopher was supposed to go to the June OAS ministerial meeting in Haiti but begged off at the last minute, hurrying home from Port-au-Prince because of crises in Bosnia and the Middle East.

Richard Holbrooke, the peripatetic assistant secretary of state for Europe and chief U.S. negotiator for Bosnia, likes to chide his colleagues in the State Department's Latin America bureau about how easy their job is compared with his. Alexander Watson, Mr. Holbrooke's counterpart for Latin America, looks rested these days; Mr. Holbrooke doesn't.

Perspectives in Washington have changed dramatically since Jean Kirkpatrick, then the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said a decade ago that Central America was "the most important region in the world" for the United States. Central America earned

that status because it was seen as a target for Soviet-inspired intervention. With the demise of the cold war, however, Central America has reverted to the anonymity it used to have before Moscow took an interest. (Henry Kissinger once said he spent no more than three minutes on Central America during his tenure as secretary of state.)

Success is the main reason Mr. Christopher and his predecessors have been able to delegate hemispheric policy to others. Not long ago, U.S. policy-makers could only dream of a Latin America that was all democratic, that shunned nuclear weapons, that treated dissidents with respect and that viewed Fidel Castro as an anachronism. Cuba is still in the Communist camp but, in greater or lesser degree, virtually all these wish-list items have come to pass.

Latin America is not entirely off the radar scope. Drug trafficking from the

region remains a high priority. Haiti still gets close attention. President Bill Clinton played host to a hemispheric summit meeting in Miami last December and announced his commitment to a hemisphere-wide free-trade pact. Last week, he welcomed Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladarez to the Oval office.

Compared with some regions, Latin America is almost smothered with U.S. attention; Mr. Christopher has yet to set foot in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Latin country that commands the most attention is Mexico, whose president, Ernesto Zedillo, is due here in October. Mexico is a special case because it has one thing the others lack: a 2,000-mile U.S. border.

South America need not feel completely left out. Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil and Chile can look forward to a visit next month by Hillary Rodham Clinton.

U.N. halts strikes on Serbs

(Continued from page 1)

cautioned that said the move towards peace will fail unless world leaders help combatants overcome mutual distrust.

The talks come at a critical juncture in peace efforts. The NATO raids, designed to force the Serbs to end their siege of Sarajevo, helped to produce an accord last week among Bosnia's warring parties over a possible future political arrangement.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and military commander Gen. Ratko Mladic went to Belgrade to sign the agreement on Sarajevo in the presence of President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, a U.N. statement said.

Mr. Milosevic, the most powerful politician in the region and no relation to the Serb general, is negotiating for the Bosnian Serbs.

Some U.N. officials have criticised the section on heavy weapons withdrawal as too soft. Although NATO and the United Nations had originally demanded that Serbs pull back all weapons with a caliber greater than 12.7 millimetres, the deal permits Serbs to keep artillery up to 100 millimetres around the city.

The concession was sure to be seized on by critics who will accuse the international community of blinking once again in a confrontation with the Serbs.

The rebels seemed happy with the deal. Momcilo Krajisnik, the top aide to Mr. Karadzic, said it was the first step towards the "just division of Sarajevo."

Serbs want part of the capital and refused the original demand for a total heavy weapons withdrawal, saying it would leave sections of the city they held unprotected. The government in-

sists on having all of Sarajevo.

"Should the Muslims attack Serb Sarajevo, our army will have to activate its heavy weapons, which will not be far away," Mr. Krajisnik told SRNA, the Bosnian Serb news agency.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Bosnian government was to refrain from offensives in or around Sarajevo.

NATO bombing was to be suspended for 72 hours beginning Thursday. If the Serbs renege on the accord, the airstrikes are to resume. If the Serbs comply, the airstrikes will be suspended for an additional 72 hours to permit them to finish relocating their heavy weapons.

The Serbs pulled some heavy weapons out of the Sarajevo area once before, in February 1994, in response to a NATO ultimatum. That quieted the shelling of Sarajevo for months, but when no peace plan was put in place, Serbs raided U.N. depots where their weapons were stored and took them back.

Mr. Holbrooke's plan would give the Sarajevo government and its Croat allies 51 per cent of Bosnia, and the Serbs, who now have about two-thirds, would get 49 per cent. There still is broad disagreement on who gets what land.

Government forces and allied Croats advanced rapidly in western Bosnia this week, capturing several towns that likely would be given to them in a peace deal. Croatan and Bosnian media reported the two armies linking up Friday at Ostrelj, near Bosanski Petrovac.

U.N. officials say the Serbs, realising they will have to give up some land, may be

making tactical withdrawals instead of fighting for the towns.

Meanwhile an estimated 90,000 Serbs have been forced to flee their homes across Bosnia as their soldiers retreat, international relief workers said.

Serb authorities were scrambling to accommodate the tide of refugees and issued desperate, unprecedented appeals for aid to the United Nations, they said.

Many Serb civilians suspect the military reversals are part of a secret plan by Bosnian Serb leaders to give up territory they will have to cede under the peace agreement, preferring to portray the losses as forced by battle.

Arafat, Peres

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Peres said Hebron remained the toughest issue. "Finding a solution for the situation in Hebron is like making eggs from an omelette," the Maariv daily quoted him as saying.

In Friday's clashes, hundreds of Palestinians chanting "Settlers out" and "Allahu Akbar" hurled stones at soldiers in hit-and-run battles in downtown Hebron.

Troops fired several bullets in the air and wielded their clubs, but otherwise showed unusual restraint. They apparently were under orders to prevent casualties during a sensitive stage in the Israel-PLO negotiations.

In one incident, soldiers were showered with rocks as they climbed onto the roof of the Palestinian economics ministry to remove a Palestinian flag.

In another confrontation, a dozen soldiers surrounded Alita Hospital in downtown Hebron after stone throwers ran into the building to avoid arrest.

American Jews' support for peace process is eroding

NEW YORK (AP) — Two years after Israel signed its historic treaty with Palestinian leaders, American Jewish support is eroding for Israel's role in ongoing peace negotiations, according to a new survey.

The survey, released Tuesday by the American Jewish Committee (AJC), found that American Jews still endorse the Sept. 13, 1993, pact by an overwhelming 92 per cent. But their support for Israel's policies has dropped from 84 per cent just after the pact was signed to 77 per cent a year ago and 68 per cent today.

David Harris, the AJC's executive director, said he saw nothing ominous in the two-year downward trend since the signing on the White House lawn attended by Israeli leaders and Palestinian chief Yasser Arafat. But he said the poll findings constitute a "wake-up call" to Israel to explain its actions in the peace process to the people who are among its most fervent backers.

At a news conference, Mr. Harris and AJC research director David Singer also disclosed results of a second poll that found that while most American Jews profess to "feel close" to Israel, only a third have ever been there and many lack "basic factual knowledge" of the Jewish state.

Mr. Singer said that survey showed fewer than half of American Jews know details of Israel's creation in 1948, and two-thirds do not know it acquired the West Bank territories in the 1967 war with Arabs, "even though most were alive at the time."

"These findings are surprising and disappointing, very disappointing from a Jewish educational point of view," Mr. Singer said.

Mr. Singer said the poll found that paradoxically, American Jews who identify themselves as "very close to Israel" are also most likely to be critical of its government's peace efforts.

That is particularly true among orthodox Jews, who make up eight per cent of American Jewry, yet 76 per cent of those who visit Israel.

A sizeable majority, 64 per cent, of orthodox Jews actually oppose the peace efforts by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government, compared to 31 who support it. Among conservative, reform and "just Jewish" categories, support for Mr. Rabin's policies ranges heavily the other way, from 77 to 57 per cent.

The two surveys, by Market Facts Inc., polled a demographically balanced sample of 1,000 American Jews by telephone last month. It had an error margin of three points plus or minus.

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Jordan Parliament passes pro-foreign investor law

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's Parliament has approved a key liberal investment law that lifts restrictions on foreign ownership and is aimed at enhancing its ability to attract foreign capital.

"The law will get the confidence of the foreign investors to invest in Jordan, it will create the proper climate in which to attract foreign investment," Finance Minister Basel Jarad told Reuters after the law was passed in the Lower House of Parliament.

It was opposed by the Islamic opposition who called for a 49 per cent limit on foreign ownership, fearing domination of Jordan's economy by Israeli investors.

Under the law, the cabinet will be empowered through a bylaw to ease foreign ownership rules and set flexible ceilings.

"It will be a very liberal bylaw and the spirit of the bylaws is that foreign and domestic investors will be treated equally with no discrimination," Mr. Jarad added.

He said that although some

ceilings would exist, the scope of foreign ownership would be widened substantially.

The bylaw is expected to be passed by the cabinet before a regional economic summit in Amman in late October that will focus on investment opportunities in the Middle East in a new era of peace.

Previous laws differentiated between a Jordanian, non-Arab, and Arab investor, with a 49 per cent limit for non-Arab ownership in public firms, though 100 per cent stakes are allowed in industry.

The law sets up an invest-

ment authority with a "central role in creating the right investment climate" and guarantees international arbitration of disputes.

It states "a non-Jordanian investor can repatriate his foreign capital... and what he has gained in profits or the liquidation or sale of his project or stock without delay and in convertible currency."

New procedures will be introduced aimed at easing red tape and bureaucracy, with investors no longer needing government committee approval of projects or investment in the stock market, a constant complaint of investors.

The law is part of a package of legislation that includes a new tax law that reduces income taxes but offsets a 60 million dinar (\$84 million) fall in state revenue by raising a sales tax on consumption to 10 per cent.

It cuts corporate income

tax to 15 per cent from 40 per cent in priority areas such as mining, industry, hotels and hospitals.

Tax on banks, financial, insurance and brokerage firms was cut to 35 per cent from 50 per cent. Other firms will have taxes lowered from 40 per cent to 25 per cent.

World Bank asks donor countries to meet promises

BEIJING (R) — The president of the World Bank appealed to donor countries Friday to honour their commitments to the bank's soft-loan facility, saying failure to do so would be a terrible blow to women.

Failure by donor countries to come up with the money would jeopardise a World Bank plan to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on education for women in the next five years, James Wolfensohn told the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.

The bank's International Development Association (IDA) lends money at favourable rates to the world's poorest nations, whose average per capita income is less than \$600 per year.

"I am deeply concerned that IDA's capacity to help women risks being eroded by the possible failure of some countries to honour their commitments to its replenishment," he said.

Rich countries that sought to cut appropriations to the IDA were hating the world's poorest women. He did not name any country.

"A failure to influence the donors to continue IDA at historic levels will be a terrible blow to the achievement of our practical objectives," he said.

Contingent on an adequate IDA replenishment, the bank

expects to raise annual education lending by 20 per cent to \$2.5 billion over the next five years, with \$1.5 billion a year going to primary and secondary education, he said.

Of this amount, 60 per cent, or \$900 million a year, will go to education of girls, he added.

Mr. Wolfensohn said he had been impressed by micro-credit programmes in Bangladesh that had enabled poor women, with loans of as little as \$100, to help their families escape poverty within five years.

With other partners, the bank had recently set up a new micro-enterprise facility of \$200 million to provide small loans to poor women entrepreneurs, with the aim of helping nearly eight million women over 10 years, he said.

The bank was lending an average of \$5 billion a year for projects that include measures specifically to strengthen the role of women in development and could do a lot more, he said.

At a news conference, Mr. Wolfensohn was asked to comment on a report in the Financial Times newspaper that the bank had proposed an \$11 billion international trust fund to help relieve the debt burden of the world's poorest nations.

Jordanian-German industrialists discuss projects, cooperation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Industrialists from the most industrialised region of Germany and Jordanian businessmen Thursday exchanged views on how best they could cooperate and sought common ground for possible joint ventures, licensing arrangements and transfer of technology.

"Jordan was the best fruit of our current Middle East visit," said Klaus Ferdinand, head of a visiting 15-member delegation from Stuttgart, said after the talks at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

"This was an exploratory visit, and members of my delegation tell me they are very optimistic after the talks here," added Mr. Ferdinand, whose team visited Israel and the Palestinian territories before arriving in Jordan. The team flew out Friday.

Mr. Ferdinand, managing director of the Stuttgart-based Baden-Wuerttemberg Agency for International Economic Cooperation, said "all aspects of possible cooperation" — including export/import, licensing agreements, joint ventures and setting up fully German-owned companies in Jordan — were discussed.

It was too early to determine specific projects, but several strong possibilities were reviewed and agreed upon, Amman Chamber of Industry officials said.

Mr. Ferdinand described Thursday's meeting as "most effective" in that the Amman Chamber of Industry had identified Jordanian industrialists interested in specific areas of production and technology and arranged for personal contacts.

"We have organised and attended more than 200 conferences, and I could say without any doubt that the Amman meeting was the best organised and productive," he said.

The meeting was held in line with an agreement that the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Baden-Wuerttemberg Agency for International Cooperation signed last year.

According to Mr. Ferdinand, Baden-Wuerttemberg is the "most industrialised among the 16 federal states of Germany," and there is immense potential for Jordanian-German industrial cooperation.

"Members of my delegation

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THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY 16, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get some uncompleted tasks finished this morning, and then you can enjoy something new in the evening for you to have some success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have to deal with something difficult this morning. Maintain your cool if partners are recalcitrant.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have many tasks to complete this morning, but later today get off to be with good friends and have fun.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) The daytime is best for recreation you like, and this evening is fine for taking care of duties at hand.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There is much to be completed at home today, so get right at it, then later tonight you can enjoy recreation you like.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be sure to count your change while out shopping, and don't drop any bundles on the way home. Drive with care while on the highway.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take care you do not invest unwisely during today. Drive with care if you get to see good friends.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Place your energies on gaining personal wishes during today. Later, you get a fine idea on becoming financially successful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Analyse your progress and know how to proceed today for more success in your chosen career. Later tonight try to gain your intimate aims.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make better arrangements with pals so that you gain your most cherished aims. Don't neglect shopping.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Some worldly matter requires you to handle properly today, so give it just that. Enjoy the company of good friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study into every facet of that new project you want to take, and later today take care of worldly affairs.

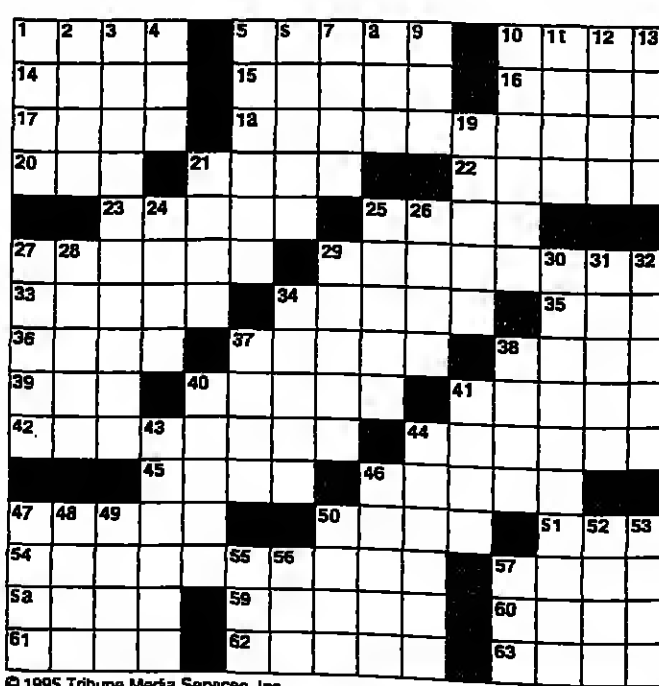
THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

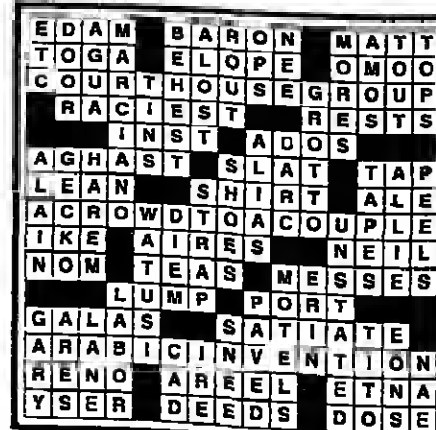
- 1 Indian prince
- 5 Name in violins
- 10 Wren or hen
- 14 Type of exam
- 15 Punctuation mark
- 16 — ben Adhem
- 17 Corruption
- 18 Brisbane's state
- 20 Moose
- 21 Melody
- 22 Pound and Stone
- 23 Shun
- 25 Gumbo
- 27 Occupant
- 29 Utter
- 33 Native of Oum
- 34 Thorny
- 35 One: Fr.
- 36 Record
- 37 Tilt
- 38 Recipe word
- 39 Devoured
- 40 "— of Two Cities"
- 41 Natatoriums
- 42 Bouquets
- 44 Java
- 45 Willie of baseball
- 46 Inexpensive
- 47 Spoil
- 50 Jog
- 51 Once around the track
- 54 Legendary sovereign
- 57 Medieval war club
- 58 Take — leave it
- 59 Eat away
- 60 U.S. satellite
- 61 Not any
- 62 Begels
- 63 Adolescent

DOWN

- 1 Wander at random
- 2 Seed covering
- 3 Upstart
- 4 Sioul
- 5 Absolve
- 6 Hillock
- 7 Nautical word
- 8 Digit
- 9 Traveler's stopover
- 10 French novelist
- 11 Construction piece
- 12 Columnist Barrett
- 13 Lemons
- 19 Crowd together
- 21 Singer Tennille
- 24 Weathercock
- 25 Sheeplike
- 26 Artist Rockwell
- 27 Industrial giant
- 28 Muse of poetry
- 29 Certain gems
- 30 Inappropriate
- 31 Like an old woman
- 32 Succinct
- 34 Overwhelms, as with laughter
- 37 Remain
- 38 Divan
- 40 Capital of Guam



Thursday's puzzle solved

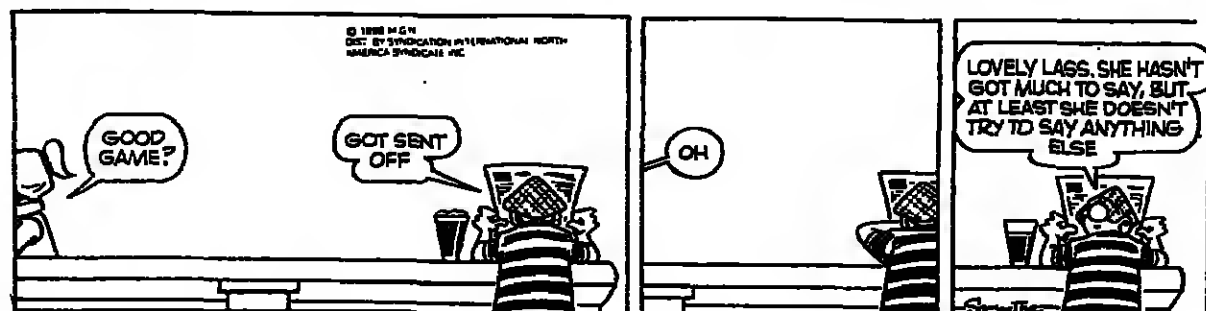


- 41 Bard
- 43 One who flees his country
- 44 Tasks
- 46 Coarse
- 47 Hide
- 48 Josip Broz
- 49 Shortly
- 50 God of thunder
- 52 Yearn
- 53 Unskilled laborer
- 55 Thing, in law
- 56 Numerical prefix
- 57 Came upon

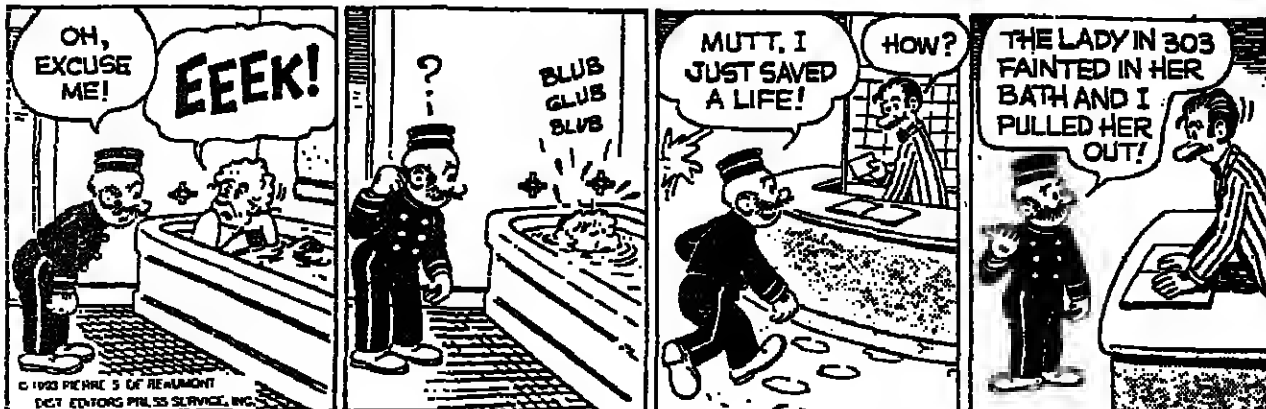
Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Al Salt municipality unable to pay staff salaries

THE SALT municipal council recommended to the minister of municipal and rural affairs the suspension of the 161 employees who were employed at the municipality from the beginning of this year. The council was forced to make the recommendation as the municipality was 100 per cent in financial deficit. The head of the municipality said the council had to borrow money to pay the staff for July and August but cannot continue to borrow to pay the salaries of excess staff who were appointed haphazardly under different pretexts and considerations (Al Rai).

OWNERS of public restaurants have sought their association's intervention with the Ministry of Supply to reconsider the prices which are no longer covering the costs of hommos and other products. Consumers have recently noticed that public restaurants are serving hommos of lower quality in order to keep selling at the fixed price of 250 fils a plate. Other restaurants resorted to increase prices in violation of the ministry's instructions, to compensate for higher prices of raw material and ingredients. For example, the price of tahineh has gone up from JD 0.60 per kilogramme to JD 1.45 and the international price of sesame has risen from JD 600 per tonne to JD 1,100 per tonne. The price of chickpeas has gone up from JD 450 per tonne to JD 1,050 per tonne (Al Rai).

JORDANIAN AND PALESTINIAN businessmen are contemplating the establishment of the first joint Jordanian-Palestinian company in the agricultural sector. The capital is proposed to be JD 5 million equally divided between the two sides. There has been no agreement yet on the location of the company but it will have two main branches in Jordan and Palestine in addition to a permanent office in Europe. The main objective of the company is to market Jordanian and Palestinian produce in Arab countries and Europe (Al Dustour).

A NUMBER of companies and businessmen from Jordan and the West Bank have completed procedures required to set up a public shareholding company, to be known as the Golden Wheat Mills Company, with a JD 7 million capital. According to Nabil Rabah, head of the founding committee, the mills will have a production capacity of 300 tonnes a day in the first stage with the possibility of increasing it to 450 tonnes per day. Mr. Rabah said the founders have covered 50 per cent of the capital and the remaining amount will be floated within the coming few weeks for public subscription. He added that all studies and research related to the project have been completed and licences have been obtained to implement the project which is expected to start production in late 1996. Among the investors in the project are the Housing Bank, the Union Bank for Saving and Investment, the Union Financial Investments Company and the Arab Investors Company.

RAJAB AL SAAD, general manager of the Industrial Development Bank, has been elected chairman of the National Petroleum Company, which has been officially registered with a JD 20 million capital. The company is now in the process of acquiring the assets of the petroleum department at the Natural Resources Authority and transferring the technical cadres. The assets of the department have been valued at JD 15 million and were considered as in-kind contribution to the capital (Al Aswak).

Industrialists discuss ties with Germans

(Continued from page 8)

tion represent small- and medium-sized companies which are keen to launch operations in the Middle East, and they feel that Jordan could be an ideal place to start," said Mr. Ferdinand. He affirmed that the outlook was not limited to the Jordanian market, but includes Israel and the Palestinian territories as well as Iraq at a later stage.

Mr. Ferdinand said that the delegation found that Jordan had all the advantages over Israel — where start-up and production costs are high — and the Palestinian territories — which lack infrastructure. "We are not discussing big projects," said Mr. Ferdinand. "We are focusing on small- and medium-size projects where German technology, equipment and experience could be used to help Jordanians."

Possibilities are also there of German capital investments in joint ventures, "but these need close discussions between the partners concerned" over financing arrangements and the nature of the venture, he added.

Bank tells donors to provide funds

(Continued from page 8)

He said the report was based on the leak of a staff discussion document and did not represent official policy, which was still at the drafting stage.

The bank needed to have a clear policy on the debt issue, he said, adding that he did not know when such a policy might be announced.

Asked about effects of World Bank-mandated structural adjustment policies on Africans, he said it was inaccurate to blame the bank for every problem of Africa and said it was important to have a sound macro-economic framework.

"I am sure we have made many mistakes," he said, adding that development was difficult and the bank was ready to work with those inside and outside government to improve its work.

Turnover up, prices steady at AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turnover went up this week at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) but prices held largely steady despite efforts by speculators to hike them after Parliament endorsed an income tax law and a liberal investment law, brokers said Thursday.

The weekly AFM report said total volume for the week was 10.5 million dinars (\$14.45 million) up 150 per cent from the previous week's 4.2 million dinars (\$5.83 million).

The official AFM index based on 60 of the 120 companies listed in the market

closed at 156.1 points, down 0.3 per cent or 0.2 per cent from the week's opening.

Average daily trading was 2.1 million dinars (\$2.9 million), compared with the previous week's 800,000 dinars (\$1.11 million).

Industrials accounted for the bulk of the trading with a volume of 4.8 million dinars for the week (\$6.67 million), or 45.7 per cent, followed by commercial banks with 3.4 million dinars or 33.4 per cent, the services sector with

2.1 million dinars (\$2.91 million), or 22 per cent, and insurance stocks with 200,000 dinars or 1.9 per cent.

Separate sector indices showed that services sector shares gained 0.9 per cent, while insurance lost 0.9 per cent, industrials slipped by 0.4 per cent and commercial banks by 0.2 per cent.

The AFM report said stocks of 93 companies were involved in the week's trading, with 43 companies closing with gains, 43 with losses

and seven remaining unchanged.

Brokers, who cannot be identified by name under standing market regulations, said the market had performed well during the week after investors were assured that there was no break in Jordanian-Iraq trade and economic links after the Aug. 8 defection to Jordan of a high-ranking Iraqi official and Jordan's decision to grant him asylum.

"The focus was strictly on local factors this week, after

Parliament endorsed the income tax law, which drops a 15 per cent capital tax on profits made at the AFM, the investment law, which offers high incentives for capital investments," said a broker.

Dozens of companies are poised to announce new ventures and capital increases after the endorsement of the new laws.

Brokers expected prices and turnover to go up next week after the formal announcements of new issues by established companies.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHUMSANA				
TELEPHONE: 60171 / 607179				
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (09/09/1995 - 13/09/1995)				
WEEKLY REPORT				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JO	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	416,270	228.000	228.000	227.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	691,123	4.500	4.500	4.450
BANK OF JORDAN	94,860	5.400	5.400	5.420
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	49,223	1.160	1.160	1.210
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	240,013	2.500	2.500	2.490
THE HOUSING BANK	35,025	5.700	5.700	5.670
JORDAN KUNAFAT BANK	17,800	2.770	2.770	2.700
JORDAN GULF BANK	56,871	1.170	1.170	1.130
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	958	3.800	3.800	3.750
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	60,403	3.730	3.730	3.770
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	682	4.050	4.050	3.950
BUSINESS BANK	42,520	3.820	3.820	3.800
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	19,454	4.000	4.000	4.000
BEIT ELMAL SAVING/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	12,174	3.700	3.700	3.430
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	136,125	0.980	0.980	0.950
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	6,741	5.400	5.400	5.300
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	1,395,266	1.560	1.560	1.610
BANKS SECTOR 3393485				
CHANGE				
JORDAN INSURANCE	4,340	3.380	3.380	3.300
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	13,457	1.820	1.820	1.850
GENERAL AMMAN INSURANCE	12,710	2.350	2.350	2.350
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	23,482	2.600	2.600	2.640
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	152,480	2.600	2.600	2.520
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	1,540	2.820	2.820	2.800
INSURANCE SECTOR 208009				
CHANGE				
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	453,224	1.630	1.630	1.670
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	14,544	8.300	8.300	8.550
JORDAN KIMEL MINERAL	500	2.500	2.500	2.500
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	28,040	7.000	7.000	7.010
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	117,918	5.600	5.600	5.650
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	5,514	2.730	2.730	2.730
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	58,260	2.120	2.120	2.090
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	105,692	1.000	1.000	1.140
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	6,175	1.170	1.170	1.100
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	10,121	0.640	0.640	0.720
JORDAN PAPER FOUNDATION / ALNA	9,950	9.950	9.950	9.950
WESTERN MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	719,410	2.340	2.340	2.400
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	55,231	3.170	3.170	3.150
KARLA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	79,617	1.350	1.350	1.370
SERVICES SECTOR 1615174				
CHANGE				
ATTAHAYAT CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	1,844	1.400	1.400	1.400
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	133,865	3.480	3.480	3.670
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	16,355	3.010	3.010	3.010
THE ARAB POTASH	62,761	4.950	4.950	4.920
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	820,635	9.390	9.390	9.580
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	7,200	1.550	1.550	1.500
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	12,681	3.100	3.100	3.140

THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS				
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING				
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES				
JORDAN DATTY				
THE JORDAN TIEPPE MANUFACTURING				
SPINNING & WEAVING				
RAFIA INDUSTRIES				
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT				
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY				
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY				
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING				
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY				
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES				
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES				
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES				
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES				
ALADDIN INDUSTRIES				
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JWICO				
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING				
JORDAN SUEPHO-CHEMICALS				
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS				
KANTHER INVESTMENT				
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES				
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.				
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY				
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES				
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRIES				
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR				4394589
CHANGE				9571276
GRAND TOTAL				
PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (09/09/1995 - 13/09/1995)				
WEEKLY REPORT				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JO	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	6,401	0.800	0.800	0.790
JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES	132,389	0.770	0.770	0.800
UNITED CO. FOR ORGANIZING LAND TRANS.	13,740	2.250	2.250	2.300
ARAB FIN INV. CO.	270,040	1.090	1.090	1.180
UNION INVESTMENT CORP. 50%	92,742	0.930	0.930	0.950
ARAB FOOD & MEDICAL APPLIANCES	30,560	0.900	0.900	0.900
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRANS	17,522	0.720	0.720	0.700
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JOIMCO	10,674	0.530	0.530	0.530
NATIONAL CHLORINE INDUSTRIES CO. LTD	65,335	1.730	1.730	1.770
NATIONAL TEXTILE & PLASTICS IND. CO	56,264	1.000	1.000	1.170
MAZAK DIES & MOLDING	1,556	0.880	0.880	0.910
EL-KAY ARAB WEAR MANUFACTURING CO.	13,239	2.130	2.130	2.160
MID RHANIA	7,693	0.930	0.930	0.910
JORDAN STEEL	64,712	0.990	0.990	1.000
ARAB ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES	3,150	0.810	0.810	0.790
UNION TOBACCO	35,137	1.650	1.650	1.680
KALSI PHARMACEUTICALS	4,195	0.840	0.840	0.870
INDUSTRIES ENGINEERING	25,981	0.770	0.770	0.820
INDUSTRIAL CERAMIC	18,925	1.300	1.300	1.280
TEXTILE MANUFACTURER	1,401	0.760	0.760	0.740
PEARL SANITARY PAPER CONVERTING	22,811	0.840	0.840	0.920
NATIONAL POULTRY 50%	61,590	0.910	0.910	0.890
GRAND TOTAL				504722

Financial Markets		
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank		
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
Date: 14/9/1995		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7160	0.7180
Sterling Pound	1.1083	1.1138
Deutsche Mark	0.4795	0.4819
Swiss Franc	0.5877	0.5906
French Franc	0.1396	0.1403
Japanese Yen	0.6930	0.6965
Dutch Guilder	0.4286	0.4307
Swedish Krona	0.0444	0.0446
Italian Lira	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc	0.0444	0.0446
Other Currencies		
Date: 14/9/1995		
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8830	1.8955
Lebanese Lira	0.042600	0.044500
Saudi Riyal	0.1904	0.1920
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2950	2.3355
Qatari Riyal	0.1954	0.1967
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2180
Omani Riyal	1.8505	1.8590
UAE Dirham	0.1943	0.1953
Greek Drachma	0.2925	0.3350
Cypriot Pound	1.5325	1.6125

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.		
One U.S. dollar	1.3634/44	Canadian dollar
	1.4906/16	Deutsche marks
	1.6698/08	Dutch guilders
	1.2148/58	Swiss francs
	30.66/70	Belgian francs
	5.1358/08	French francs
	1614.4/5.4	Italian lire
	103.52/62	Japanese yen
	7.1570/70	Swedish crowns
	6.5050/00	Norwegian crowns
	5.7730/80	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5470/80	
One ounce of gold	\$385.20/383.70	

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Anand presses hard, but 3rd game ends in deadlock

NEW YORK (AP) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov fought off a fierce attack Thursday from Viswanathan Anand in the third game of their championship match, leaving the challenger to concede a draw after 36 moves.

It was the third consecutive deadlock in the 20-game Professional Chess Association Championship, leaving the score tied (1 to 1). A half point is awarded to each player for a draw.

Kasparov, playing black, was on the defensive throughout the game as Anand pressed hard to capture the first victory. Indeed, many experts said Anand, playing with the advantage of the white pieces, may have missed a winning sequence to rip open Kasparov's defences on the 20th move.

"It was very dangerous," Kasparov told reporters after the game, which lasted just over three hours. "It was not easy today."

Australian grandmaster Ian Rogers said: "Anand missed a great chance."

The opening of the game mirrored their first encounter Monday, until Anand broke away on move 12 and manoeuvred his queen to attack Kasparov's king.

By move 19, Anand broke open the centre, but after missing his opportunity Kasparov was able to trade off Anand's dangerous pieces and reach a draw.

Kasparov, 32, of Russia, is favoured to retain the title he has held since 1985. But he said he wasn't too surprised by the even start to the match with the 25-year-old Anand, of India.

"It will be a very tough and long match. It's just the beginning," Kasparov said.

Asked whether the three consecutive draws would cause the public to lose in-



World chess champion Garry Kasparov from Russia holds his head in his hands as he contemplates a move in the World Chess Championship against India's Viswanathan Anand (AFP photo)

terest in the five-week match. Kasparov referred to the recent blink-of-an-eye boxing match between Mike Tyson and Peter McNeeley.

"It's better to make three draws than to finish a match in 89 seconds," Kasparov said, referring to Tyson's swift knockout.

Danish international Mas-

ter Bjarke Christensen said Kasparov had thus far shown no superiority over Anand. The games stand in contrast to Kasparov's last title defence against British grandmaster Nigel Short in London in 1993, when Kasparov blew his opponent away with three victories in the first four games and Short never recovered.

But against Anand, "it looks like a match between equal players," Christensen said.

Game four was scheduled for Friday.

The games are played in a specially designed soundproof booth on the 10th floor of the World Trade Centre.

The championship employs a best-of-20 game format, with the winner being the first player to get 10.5 points, a win scores a full point.

In the event of a 10-10 tie, Kasparov retains his title.

The winner gets \$1 million, the loser \$500,000.

European soccer teams back to the 'bread and butter'

PARIS (AFP) — Europe's elite clubs return to the bread-and-butter business of domestic football this weekend — and in Germany several teams will be eager to erase the memory of mid-week humiliation.

Bayern Munich, who crashed to a shock 1-0 defeat at home against unrated Lokomotive Moscow in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday, hope to put the result behind them when they face Kaiserslautern away.

The German pacesetters, who have made a dream start to the league season scoring fifteen and conceding only four goals in their five consecutive victories, are currently five points clear of closest rivals Moenchengladbach.

Against Kaiserslautern, who lost their UEFA Cup first-leg away to Slovan Bratislava, Bayern will again be without Jean-Pierre Papin. The French striker, absent against Lokomotive Moscow, has been given compassionate leave by the club to accompany his five-year-old daughter Emily to New York where she is to receive special medical treatment.

Borussia Dortmund, outclassed 3-1 at home in the Champions' League by Italian opponents Juventus, will be hoping for a better showing in front of their fans when they play Stuttgart on Saturday. Last year's German Champions have made a dull start to the season with only two victories from their five matches.

Friburg, who lost their home UEFA Cup match against Slavia Prague 2-1 and who are struggling at the foot of the table with only one win so far, look to have another tough match ahead of them when they face Werder Bremen.

In Italy Juventus, Lazio and AC Milan look to protect 100 per cent records.

Juventus, with eight goals in their two matches and with captain Gianluca Vialli displaying some of his best form in months, start hot favourites for another big win when they play hosts to Vicenza.

AC Milan, whose investment in bringing quicksilver Liberian frontrunner Georges Weah from Paris St. Germain is paying handsome dividends, will get Sunday's star billing in a tough away fixture at AS Rome.

Lazio are also away to Bari who will be looking for their first success of the season.

In Spain, something will have to give when Athletic Bilbao face Atletico Madrid. Both clubs top the table after winning both of their opening matches and Saturday's clash is rich in promise. So far the two sides have scored fourteen goals between them.

Athletic Bilbao, 2-1 winners when they played an over-complacent Real Madrid away last weekend, will be hoping Ciganda and Echeverria can again be on target in front of their home fans.

Elsewhere Espanol, 4-1

away winners against Tenerife last time out, are at home to Albacete.

In France, pacesetters Paris St. Germain, made to look awkward and ordinary despite a 3-2 win over Norwegian minnows FK Molde in a first-leg European Cup winners Cup clash on Thursday, will again be without injured international goalkeeper Bernard Lama when they face Montpellier away on Sunday.

Nantes, who produced a plucky goalless draw at home in the Champions League against FC Porto, have had to remodel their defence for a home match against Guingamp on Saturday.

Manager Jean-Claude Suaudeau, who has had to rule out Eddy Capron (injury) and Benoit Caulet and Laurent Guyot (suspension), is expected to welcome back Jean-Michel Ferri and Reynald Pedros.

European Cup Winners results

Celtic (Scotland)-Dynamo Batumi (Georgia) 3-2
Dynamo Moscow (Russia)-Ararat (Armenia) 3-1
Parma (Italy)-FC Tenta Duresi (Albania) 2-0
Hradec Kralove (Czech Republic)-FC Copenhagen 5-0
Lokomotive Sofia (Bulgaria)-Halmstad BK (Sweden) 3-1
Real Zaragoza (Spain)-Inter Bratislava (Slovakia) 2-0
Feyenoord (Netherlands)-Dag Liepaja (Latvia) 7-0
Deportivo Coruna (Spain)-Apoel (Nicosia) 0-0
AEK Athens (Greece)-Sion (Switzerland) 2-0
Zalgiris Vilnius (Lithuania)-Trabzonspor (Turkey) 2-2
Club Brugge (Belgium)-Shaktyor Donetsk (Ukraine) 1-0
Rapid Vienna (Austria)-Petrolul Ploiesti (Romania) 3-1
Borussia Moenchengladbach (Germany)-Sileks Kratovo (Macedonia) 3-0
Paris St. Germain (France)-Molde FK (Norway) 3-2
Sporting Lisbon (Portugal)-Maccabi Haifa (Israel) 4-0
Everton (England)-Reykjavik (Iceland) 3-2
Lens (France)-Avenir Beggen (Luxembourg) 6-0
Bordeaux (France)-Vardar (Macedonia) 2-0

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SWISS CULTURAL WEEK will take place

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Events of the week:

- seven feature films and three documentaries daily at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. see program under "What's going on"
- performance "An evening with Dimitri, the lovable clown" September 20th, at 8 p.m.
- Exhibition "Swiss Photographers from 1840 until today".
- Exhibition "Face to Face with Switzerland".

A Swiss Gourmet Week is also going on at Rozena Restaurant (near 2nd circle).

Trainer Pease poised for

Salamandre

PARIS (R) — French-based trainer Jonathan Pease has some smart two-year-olds and both with Fascination and Titus Livius contest the group one Prix de La Salamandre at Longchamp on Sunday with first rate chances.

With Fascination created a big impression when running away with the group three Prix de Cabourg at Deauville in August and subsequently started favourite to win the Group One Prix Morny later that month.

She failed to cope with British-trained Colt Tagula, but lost no merit in defeat and the extra furlong (200 metres) of the 1.4 km Salamandre test should suit the American-owned filly.

Titus Livius followed up his Deauville debut third by romping home by four lengths in the group three Prix d'Arenberg at Chantilly earlier this month and is clearly improving.

English opposition is spearheaded by Peter Chapple-Hyam's Phoenix Stakes second Woodbrook and John Gosden's Lord of Men, who is a colt clearly going places judged by his easy victories at Newmarket and Lingfield.

Chapple-Hyam has supplemented his Irish 2,000 Guineas winner spectrum for the group three Prix du Prince d'Orange on the same card.

Spectrum has not raced since injuring himself in June, but still has to carry a weight penalty for his Irish classic success.

His most dangerous rival in the five-runner field is expected to be Tamure, who reappears for the first time since running a cracking race to be second to Lammtarra in the Epsom Derby in June.

A good performance by either could book a place in next month's Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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CHECK YOUR TRICK

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 8 3
♥ A 7
♦ 7 5 2
♣ A 10 9 8 5 3

WEST
♠ K Q 10 8 4
♥ Q 3
♦ J 10 9 8 7 6
♣ J 7 6 2

EAST
♠ 7 5 2
♥ J 10 9 8 5
♦ Q 9 8 2
♣ 4 4

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠

Opening lead: King of ♠

The odds on six missing cards of a suit breaking 3-3 is almost 36 per cent, while a 4-2 distribution occurs 48 percent of the time. You do not need to know the exact odds. It is sufficient to be aware that the missing cards of a suit will more often break as evenly as possible without actually dividing exactly — hence 4-2 and not 3-3, while five cards will probably split 3-2. All this serves merely as an introduction to today's deal.

After a routine auction North-South reach three no trump. As South, you receive the lead of the king of spades. Do you win this trick? Would you play the hand differently at duplicate and rubber bridge?

At both forms of bridge it is right to duck the first trick. West cannot continue spades profitably, and no shift can hurt you. At trick two West shifts to the jack of diamonds. How do you continue at duplicate? What about at rubber bridge?

In a duplicate pairs event, you can expect the field to be in three no trump. Since the odds favor a 3-2 club split, win the king of diamonds, cash the king-queen of clubs, and overtake the queen with the ace. Now continue to lead high clubs until West wins the jack. Since the ace of hearts is still on the table as an entry to the clubs, you rake in 10 tricks and partner's compliments.

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ANNONCE

A L'OCCASION DE SA VISITE EN JORDANIE, LE MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES, M. HERVE DE CHARENTE, RECEVRA LA COMMUNAUTE FRANCAISE A LA RESIDENCE DE FRANCE, 35 ZAHARAN STREET, DJEBEL AMMAN, LE LUNDI 18 SEPTEMBRE 1995 DE 19H00 A 20H00.

LES RESSORTISSANTS FRANCAIS RESIDANT EN JORDANIE SONT PRIES DE VENIR AVEC UNE PIECE D'IDENTITE RETIRER LEURS CARTONS D'INVITATION AU POSTE DE GARDE DE LA CHANCELLERIE, MUTANABI STREET A PARTIR DU SAMEDI 16 SEPTEMBRE 1995.

TODAY AT	<p>CINEMA TEL: 634144</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>Melanie Griffith & Ed Harris ... in</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">MILK MONEY</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 699238</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLAZA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bruce Willis in Die Hard III</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 677420</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONCORD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONCORD "1" Adel Imam & Yusra Birds of the Darkness (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONCORD "2" Striking Distance Shows: 3:30, 5:45, 8:45, 10:45</p>	<p>AMMOUN THEATRE TEL: 618274-618275</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MUSA HIJAZIN "Sumaa" IN Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 pm written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqfeh *****</p>	<p>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre TEL: 675571</p> <p style="text-align: center;">performances will seize starting of today until further notice</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Tel: 625155</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AHLAN THEATRE presents (Ahlan Tatbee) Welcome Normalisation Shows start at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman</p>
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Algerian athletes march behind a local Zimbabwean during the opening ceremony of the Sixth All Africa Games in Harare (AFP photo)

South Africa top All Africa Games medals table

HARARE (AFP) — South Africa, competing in their first ever All Africa Games here, topped the official medals table by midday (1000 GMT) Friday, having won eight medals.

Their three golds, four silvers and one bronze have mainly come from athletics (two golds, two silvers, and one bronze), but also diving (gold) and karate (two silvers).

Egypt, who headed the medal list in the previous two games, in second place with six medals — three golds in karate, one silver in diving, and two bronzes for diving and athletics.

Zimbabwe, hosts of this 48-nation event from Sept. 13 to 23, are in third spot with five medals — a gold, silver and bronze from diving, a silver from athletics and a bronze from karate.

All Africa Games face extinction

The All Africa Games faces extinction unless massive changes are carried out, warned Jean Claude Ganga, president of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) here on Friday.

"There are too many sports and too many athletes," he said.

"Africa is not rich. We have to tailor the games to what we have. We should be having 10 to 12 sports only. Not 20 like here. And 5,500 athletes is far too many," added Ganga.

"Frankly the future of the games are at stake," he stressed.

He also called for African governments to not be solely responsible for organising the games.

Instead the National Olympic Committees should organise them, in conjunction with governments, he said.

"The All Africa Games are the only major games in the world which are not organised by Olympic committees," said Ganga.

"But in Africa, because it is governments who organise them we cannot get sponsors. I have spoken to top business people and they admit that until governments remove themselves from being the sole organiser they will not sponsor the games."

"What happens if a government backs out of its agreement with a major sponsor? What can the sponsor do? He cannot sue the government."

"We must find a solution where sports ministers and sports organisations work together," he added.

Ganga, a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) also warned the Olympic movement not to try and reduce Africa's participation in the Olympics.

"We don't want the Olympics just for the Americas and Europe. Some people only want African countries to turn up for the opening ceremony and then sit in the stands and just watch. Africa will not accept that," he said.

To ensure more African athletes appear in future Olympics, Ganga has proposed that the IOC allow six athletes from every member country to take part in the games, even if they have not reached the qualifying standard.

"The Olympics are for everyone. It is a festival. We must beware that the professionals do not push out the amateurs," he explained.

Mugabe blames organisers for chaos

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe has joined a growing list of critics of the organisation of the All Africa Games.

With virtually nobody going to watch the games — only 10,000 turned out to watch the opening ceremony in the 60,000 seater Zim-

babwe National stadium — Mugabe has called for supporter groups to be formed.

Speaking at Harare international airport on Thursday he said he was not happy at the low turn-out and firmly blamed the COJA, the organising committee.

Disaster after disaster has hit the games.

Even before Wednesday's opening ceremony the games had been all but derailed as star athlete withdrew, reducing the championships to a second class meeting.

Other mishaps include the boxing ring collapsing during the opening bout, the flame going out at the opening ceremony and having to be relit, athletes having to wait for hours to get accreditation and the results computer crashing two hours after it was turned on.

Football matches have been cancelled minutes before kick-off and angry spectators demanded their money back when a basketball session was shortened by two hours.

In Bulawayo, where a second opening ceremony was to be held on Thursday, President Mugabe called off his visit at the last minute after being warned by aides that the plans were a shambles.

"He did not want to be involved," a government source told Harare newspaper The Herald.

COJA president Tomy Sithole admitted Friday there had been problems.

He said he accepted the president's complaint on the lack of people turning up.

"There are two reasons. One, we were so engrossed in organising that we forgot about the public. And two, most people cannot go to the events because we have taken virtually all the buses to take athletes to the grounds," he said.

"We could have planned it better," he added.

Tyson's free TV deal side wipes Holyfield-Bowe

NEW YORK (AFP) — Mike Tyson, whose first post-prison bout raked in a pay-per-view record 96 million dollars, can be seen on U.S. T.V. for free when he fights Buster Mathis Jrn on November 4.

Promoter Don King, who did the deal with Showtime cable television and the Fox T.V. broadcast network, called it "Mike's way of saying thanks to the American people."

More likely it's King's way of saying 'boo' to Time Warner Inc. and their TVKO pay-per-view outlet, which is due to be selling the Evander Holyfield-Riddick Bowe rematch on the same night.

Tyson-Mathis will be the first major heavyweight fight on free T.V. in the United States since Muhammad Ali-Teon Spinks in 1978.

Since then, pay-per-view has come to dominate the sport.

"I'm shocked," TVKO senior vice president Lou DiBella said. "This is the ultimate act of war against us. This is a big strike against us."

Holyfield-Bowe promoter Bob Arum also expressed dismay, but Holyfield's promoter, Dan Duva, was unperturbed.

The Tyson fight will likely sometime between 8-11 p.m. Eastern time, with the pay-per-view main event likely to start after 11 p.m.

"That fight will be over before our fight," Duva said. "The free fight doesn't affect our event at all."

Duva said he wouldn't mind shifting Bowe-Holyfield to November 3,

but Phil Cooper, vice president of public relations for Caesars Palace, said the fight would remain as scheduled.

"We believe we have the better fight," he said. "The pay-per-view audience is going to go for the quality."

Indeed, one reason for sacrificing pay-per-view revenues is to rekindle interest in Tyson in the wake of his 89-second comeback farce against Peter McNeeley on August 19.

That bout, Tyson's first since he served a prison term for rape, set a record for Showtime's pay-per-view outlet SET, with 1.5 million viewers and gross revenues of 96 million dollars.

But some of those who coughed up around 50 dollars to buy the fight felt cheated when McNeeley's manager jumped into the ring and got his fighter disqualified in the first round.

Apparently, that is one reason Showtime, which signed a multi-million-dollar contract for Tyson's first six comeback fights, was willing to let the fight be shown on Fox.

"That can only build the legend of Mike Tyson, and that's the business we're in for the next couple of years — building the legend of Mike Tyson," said Showtime president Matt Blank. "That's to everybody's benefit."

Not coincidentally, Tyson's next five fights have been sold outside the United States to the Sky-Sport satellite network, which like Fox is owned by Rupert Murdoch.

Qatar upset Jordan 2-1 in Asian Olympic qualifier

By Aileen Banayan

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's national soccer team Friday lost 2-1 to their Qatari counterparts in the opening match of the Asian Group 8 Olympic Qualifier at Amman Stadium.

The win was very important for the Qatari team who next host Iraq in Doha Sept. 22.

Although the Kingdom's team had the upper hand at the beginning, Qatar took a 1-0 lead from a header by Mohammad Al Mirri in the 39th minute.

Jordan's only real chance was lost by team captain

Badran Al Shaqran early in the first half.

Qatar went on an all out attack trying to secure the win after two goals were ruled offside. But Mohammad Al Anazi gave his team a 2-0 lead from a header in the 57th minute.

Six minutes later Jordan's Mohammad Al Shiyah scored his team's

only goal from inside the penalty box.

Jordan's next match will be against Iraq in Amman on Sept. 29.

The top team in each of the eight Asian groups will advance to the second round following which the top three teams will qualify to represent Asia in the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Schedule of matches

Date	Match	Venue
Friday 22/9	Qatar vs. Iraq	Doha
Friday 29/9	Jordan vs. Iraq	Amman
Friday 6/10	Qatar vs. Jordan	Doha
Friday 13/10	Iraq vs. Qatar	Baghdad
Friday 20/10	Iraq vs. Jordan	Baghdad

Khaled Al Harban co-hosts match

Khaled Al Harban, one of the best known sports commentators in the Middle East and North Africa, co-hosted the Jordan-Qatar Olympic qualifier.

Harban, who turned to

television after a successful career as a professional footballer for the Kuwaiti national team, has been a sportscaster covering the World Cup finals since 1974, and the Olympics

since 1976.

Harban has recently joined Orbit-ESPN sports and received the best Arab commentator award after covering the World Cup in 1994.

Bubka fails to clear new record of 6.15m

TOKYO (AFP) — Britain's Linford Christie won the 100 metres event but five-time world champion Sergei Bubka of Ukraine failed to break his 36th world record, at the Tokyo international track and field meet Friday.

Barcelona Olympic sprint champion Christie, who was sixth in the world championships in Gothenburg, saved some face by running the 100m in his fastest time this season, 10 seconds dead, beating Canadians Bruny Surin and world champion Donovan Bailey.

Bubka easily won the pole vault event. He has been struggling to clear the 6.00 metre mark this season but cleared 5.95m to win the event and then attempted a new world record of 6.15m, one centimetre above his 35th record set in Italy in July last year.

"I thought I could make a new record,

consider my condition today, but I waited too long before my jumps and I lost my rhythm," said the 31-year-old Ukrainian after failing his three attempts.

Radion Gataullin of Russia was second with 5.90m, ahead of American Pat Manson with 5.70m.

In the 200m, triple world champion Michael Johnson of the United States coasted to an easy victory in 20.06 to beat Gothenburg silver winner Frankie Fredericks of Namibia. Fredericks was expected to be in Harare, Zimbabwe, competing in the African Games.

A total of eight world record holders and 19 current world champions took part in the competition, but none could set a new record owing to the downpour.

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Mr. Turner will be in Amman on Saturday, September 16th and Sunday, September 17th to meet current and prospective clients.

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Tuesday

Quiz night

8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Thursday

Dancing night

minimum charge 3JD

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Daily Happy Hour

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

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Customer Voucher Number

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1 TO 200	16/9/95
201 TO 400	17/9/95
401 TO 600	18/9/95
601 TO 800	19/9/95
801 TO 1100	20/9/95
1101 TO 1400	21/9/95
1401 TO 1700	23/9/95
1701 TO 2100	24/9/95
2101 TO 2500	25/9/95
2501 TO 2900	26/9/95
2901 TO 3400	27/9/95
3401 TO 3900	28/9/95
3901 TO 4400	30/9/95
4401 TO 4900	1/10/95
4901 TO 5400	2/10/95
5401 TO 5900	3/10/95
5901 TO 6400	4/10/95
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6901 TO 7400	7/10/95
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Egypt scales down relations with Sudan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt is downgrading diplomatic relations with Sudan to protest the country's alleged involvement in the assassination attempt against President Hosni Mubarak in June.

A high-ranking government official said Friday: "We're lowering it (relations) to the level of working contacts."

The official, who insisted on anonymity, described it as "the first official action" against Sudan but gave no clues on what other steps might be taken.

Mr. Mubarak late Thursday announced that he was withdrawing the nomination of Helmi Abdul Hamid Badr as Egypt's ambassador to Khartoum.

Ethiopia late last month all but shut down diplomatic relations with Khartoum after charging that the Sudanese government had refused to cooperate in its investigation into the assassination attempt.

Mr. Mubarak escaped injury when his motorcade was attacked by nine gunmen on June 26 as he arrived in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa for an African summit.

Five of the gunmen were killed and three others were captured, and all were said by Egypt to be Egyptians.

But Addis Ababa has charged that the missing gunman was being sheltered by Khartoum and that two Arabs who allegedly were the masterminds of the attack also had Sudanese connections.

Sudan's government, headed by lieutenant-general Omar al-Bashir, has denied any involvement in the attack. Government officials said they followed up on Ethiopia's queries but were unable to locate any of the suspects.

Egyptian newspapers say there are around two million

Sudanese living in Egypt and several thousand Egyptians resident in Sudan.

The Organisation of African Unity and Ethiopia denounced Sudan last week for its alleged involvement in sheltering those who took part in the attack.

Mr. Mubarak told reporters last week Egypt was planning to take measures against Sudan following the Ethiopian statement, which called upon Khartoum to hand over for trial the three people who allegedly took part in the failed assassination attempt.

Asked about reports that Ethiopia and Egypt would file a complaint with the U.N. Security Council against Sudan, the Egyptian official said: "It hasn't been decided yet."

Egypt has long accused Sudan of harbouring radicals who have waged a campaign of violence since 1992 to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule.

The Egyptian action is the latest in a series of diplomatic setbacks for Sudan.

Last December, Eritrea broke off relations, charging that Khartoum was supporting insurgents. Relations have been seriously strained with Uganda, which also accuses Sudan of harbouring rebels.

While Western nations retain diplomatic contacts, most have sharply cut their embassy staffs and reduced foreign aid since Gen. Bashir took power in a 1989 coup and installed an Islamic regime.

The United States in August 1993 added Sudan to its list of states sponsoring terrorism, making it ineligible for all but emergency humanitarian aid.

Britain in January appointed a new ambassador

to Sudan, filling a post vacant since the previously envoy was expelled in a 1993 spat over a visit by the archbishop of Canterbury.

Sudan, meanwhile, accuses Ethiopia of being behind the attempt to assassinate Mr. Mubarak and said the alleged mastermind had an Ethiopian passport.

In a statement issued by the Sudanese embassy in Nairobi, the government said Egypt and Ethiopia conspired at the OAU to condemn Khartoum.

"The attempt to condemn Sudan in the OAU central organ was an ill-produced play that... isn't worth the money paid for it," it said. "Sudan considers those involved in the assassination attempt were part and parcel of the Ethiopian regime."

"Ethiopia, which chaired the meeting and played the role of 'judge and enemy' at the same time, has greatly abused its chairmanship of the OAU and violated the procedures of the organisation's meetings," the Sudanese statement said. "Sudan... would like to announce its firm rejection of the attempts to label it with hosting and hiding the suspects."

The statement said Ethiopia had told Sudan that Mohammad Siraj, the alleged mastermind of the plot, was married to an Ethiopian and had an Ethiopian passport.

It said Ethiopians alleged one of the suspects was called Yassim, which was not a name in Arabic, and had avoided confirming that all 11 suspects were Egyptians.

"Sudan is aware the plot will not be restricted to accusations and vicious allegations but would extend to exploit any means that might be available for the conspirators," it added.



RELIEF: Sarajevo men play chess at an empty market on Friday, one day after the Bosnian Serbs and a U.S. envoy worked out an accord under which North Atlantic Treaty Organisation airstrikes on the Bosnian Serbs were suspended in return for the lifting of the siege of Sarajevo (see page one) (AFP photo)

Court upholds minister's decision on sermons

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Court of Justice has rejected a lawsuit filed by seven deputies from the Islamic Action Front (IAF) against Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam al-Abdadi for preventing them from delivering Friday sermons at the King's mosques, according to a report published in the Arabic daily Al-Rai.

The Court, presided over by Judge Khalaf Suheimat, said the minister's decision was based on a recommendation by the directors of the Awqaf Department and the Preaching and Guidance Department and not by the ministry's secretary general.

The minister's decision has become effective following the rejection of the lawsuit by the court.

The lawsuit was filed by deputies Sheikh Abdul Munem Abu Zant, Badr Riyati, Hammam Said, Abdul Aziz Jabr, Bassam Omoush, Ahmad Kasasbeh and Mohammad Oweida.

Judicial sources said 25 people were banned from delivering Friday sermons at the King's mosques.

The court earlier rejected a similar lawsuit filed by former Deputy Mohammad Abu Fares, while it also declared null and void a decision by the minister banning eight deputies from delivering Friday sermons.

The deputies in question include Deeb Abdullah, Hamzeh Mansour, Ahmad Kofahi, Abdul Rahim Al Okour, Deeb Anis, Deifallah Al Moumami, Suleiman Al Sa'ad and Mohammad Al Haj, in addition to former Deputy Mohammad Khreisat.

Lebanese soldier injured in Israeli attack

ZAHLA (AFP) — Israeli helicopter gunship attacked Lebanese army positions in South Lebanon, seriously injuring one soldier, military sources said Friday.

The Israeli helicopters fired heavy machine guns overnight Thursday at a Lebanese position at Mlikh, on the Iqim Al Tuffah heights — a stronghold of Iranian-backed Hizbollah militants.

One Lebanese soldier was seriously injured in the area, where the army has been deployed since 1991, the sources said.

Israeli forces were responding to the launch of six rockets against the South Lebanon Army, a militia financed by the Jewish state in its self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

The rocket attack, claimed by the Islamic Resistance, an armed branch of the Hizbollah, did not cause any casualties, security officials said.

Iran and Iraq sign memo on outstanding issues from war

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq have signed a memorandum of understanding in talks on prisoners of war (PoWs), the missing and refugees from their 1980-1988 war, the official news agency IRNA said Friday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hussein Sheikholeslam and his Iraqi counterpart Saad Abdul Majid Al Faisal signed the protocol on Thursday, it said, without specifying the contents.

IRNA, quoting the Foreign Ministry, said the two sides made "progress in reaching an understanding with regard to the search for the remains of soldiers and militiamen killed during the conflict."

There was also "more comprehension on ways to exchange the PoWs, as well as the refugees and exiles," it said.

Tebran Radio said the two sides expressed their "political will to improve ties," which remain strained seven years after the end of their bloody conflict.

Mr. Faisal's delegation returned home on Friday.

A Foreign Ministry official said after talks Monday between Mr. Faisal and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati that Iran was "optimistic" about the prospects of resolving differences with Iraq over the PoWs and missing.

Iran says it has prepared a list of 32,000 of its citizens, military or civilian, who are unaccounted for, including 5,000 to 15,000 people allegedly still jailed in Iraq.

Iran has rejected the charge, accusing Iraq of detaining 20,000 Iraqi soldiers, a figure backed by a senior Iranian official two years ago. The two countries suspended the exchange of PoWs in 1991.

The issue of the PoWs and missing has been a major hurdle to normalising relations.

Tehran has also called on Baghdad to withdraw its support for Iran's main armed opposition, the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, which launches operations from its bases in Iraq.

The question has caused a planned Velayati visit to Iraq

to be postponed three times since January.

Mr. Faisal's visit, which was not announced in advance, came after Iraq's official press called for better ties with Iran to form a united front against the United States.

Iraq also wants the return of its planes which sought shelter in Iran during the 1991 Gulf war for Kuwait.

Defection reported

The Mujahideen-e-Khalq said meanwhile an Iranian air force major taking part in a sports event in Italy has defected and joined the opposition.

Major Nasser Akbari refused to return to Iran after the world military games in Rome that began on Sept. 5, the Mujahideen said in a statement received in Nicotia.

The group quoted Maj. Akbari as saying "the repression prevailing in Iran is so much that any form of silence against the ruthless rulers contradicts humanity and patriotism."

Iraqi debts put at \$90 billion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Iraq is saddled with around \$90 billion in foreign debt, most of which accumulated during the 1980s from purchases of Russian weapons, according to an official Arab report.

Before its eight-year war with Iran erupted in 1980, Iraq had almost no debts as it had avoided borrowing because of high oil-export earnings, the Kuwaiti-based Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG) said in its annual report distributed here.

"As of 1981, Iraq began borrowing mainly from the former Soviet Union for military purposes as well as from Arab states after its current account started to suffer from deficits," said the 360-page report on the 1994 economic and social developments in the 22-member Arab League.

"Several other countries, including from the West, as

well as India and Brazil had also provided credit facilities to Iraq."

By the end of 1994, Iraq's total debt was estimated at around \$90 billion while debt servicing stood at 3.5 billion dollars in 1990 and it increased to around 3.8 billion dollars in 1991, it said.

The study gave no figures on Baghdad's debt to the former Soviet Union, but military experts had earlier estimated it at more than \$50 billion.

Billions of dollars were also extended by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to help Iraq in its 1980-1988 war with neighbouring Iran.

Official and independent estimates have put Iraq's loss from that war at around \$150 billion while more than \$200 billion in economic damage was inflicted on it during the 1990-1991 Kuwait crisis.

Such developments have wrecked the Iraqi economy,

which has also been slapped by a ban on oil sales as part of crippling United Nations sanctions.

ACIG said Iraq produced around 450,000 barrels per day (b/d) of oil in 1994 for domestic consumption compared with 3.5 million b/d before its forces invaded neighbouring Kuwait in August 1990. It put its oil reserves at 100 billion barrels and gas at 3.1 trillion cubic metres (103.3 trillion cubic feet).

Citing official Iraqi figures, it said the economy grew by 3.2 per cent in 1994, when the gross domestic product stood at \$18 billion.

"Oil is still the main element in the Iraqi economy. This was most evident in 1991, when the GDP plummeted by around 75 per cent in real terms after oil production declined by 85 per cent because of the embargo," the report said.

Israeli officials can keep their names

TEL AVIV (R) — Breaking with Zionist tradition, Israel has decided that non-Hebrew family names are now kosher for its diplomats. The ruling, announced in an Israel Radio interview Thursday by Civil Service Commissioner Yitzhak Galnoor, ends a practice introduced by Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion. Ben-Gurion, formerly Gruen, ordered diplomats, senior army officers and political leaders to swap their mainly Eastern European names for Hebrew ones as part of a successful drive to make the language of the Bible the main language of the country. Yitzhak Robicov, for example, changed his name to Rabin. Shimon Persky opted for Peres. "A foreign service officer about to be sent abroad asked me for permission to retain his family name," Mr. Galnoor, formerly Goldenrod, told the radio. "The plea that touched my heart was that he loved his name and that a change would hurt his elderly mother — who would never understand," Mr. Galnoor said he asked civil service lawyers for a legal opinion and they found that a forced name change violated diplomats' civil rights.

See-through doors, cameras to fight elevator crime

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore authorities are installing glass panels on elevator doors and may put up electronic surveillance systems in order to deter crimes in public-bousing lifts, it was reported here Friday. The measures, prompted by a recent lift murder, also include sirens which would sound if someone tried to jam a lift, as well as lifts that stop at every floor, the Straits Times newspaper said. The government's housing and development board is also considering the installation of closed-circuit cameras connected to a surveillance channel on home televisions, with recording facilities to help police identify culprits. Singaporeans, who take pride in their relatively crime-free neighbourhoods, were shocked by the fatal stabbing of a housewife last week in a botched lift robbery. Close to 90 per cent of Singaporeans live in public-housing estates. "The police assure the public that lift crimes are on the decline," Director of Police Operations Chua Chin Kiat was quoted as saying. But he said the most effective measure was "neighbourhood policing," lamenting that not many of the 100,000 neighbourhood watch groups registered in the city state of three million people were active. The newspaper said see-through doors have already had a side benefit: cleaner lifts.

French court allows sale of book on Belgian royals

PARIS (R) — A court has allowed a controversial novel about the Belgian royal family to remain on sale in France but ordered its author to pay two family members a symbolic one franc (20 cents) in damages. "Une Paix Royale" (A Royal Peace) by Belgian author Pierre Mertens is the fictional autobiography of a writer depicted as having been a confidant of the Belgian royal family. Princess Lilian, widow of the late King Leopold III and stepmother of the present King Albert, asked the court to order its withdrawal from sale in France or the deletion of sections she said gravely labelled her son Alexandre and herself. Princess Lilian also sought one million francs (\$200,000) in provisional damages from 56-year-old Mertens and his French publisher Editions Du Seuil.

Sudan says all detained student protesters freed

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — All students arrested or injured in last week's anti-government protests in Sudan have been released from prison and hospital, the head of Khartoum University told the official Sudanese News Agency (SUNA).

SUNA quoted Hashim Mohammad Al Hadi as saying on Thursday that the situation has been calm at the university since Wednesday morning and that work in all faculties was proceeding normally.

No further details were given.

Thousands of students have demonstrated in Khartoum since the beginning of the week, chanting slogans against Sudanese President Lieutenant-General Omar al-Bashir and his close ally, leader of the National Islamic

Front, Hassan al-Tourabi.

According to the Sudanese Interior Ministry, three people were killed and others were injured when riot police used tear gas and bullets to disperse the demonstrators.

Demonstrations were sparked by the arrest of three communist students and developed into the worst anti-government riots since Gen. Bashir came to power in 1989.

Col. Hadi praised the students who did not join the "minority" anti-government demonstrators. He said that lectures had continued, as had exams in the faculties of medicine and law.

The Sudanese opposition in exile said on Thursday that the authorities in Khartoum had detained and mistreated several hundred people who took part in the demonstrations.

The freedoms and human rights committee of the Umma Party, led by former Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq al-Mandi, said the authorities were holding the detainees in poor conditions in centres known as "ghost houses."

The party, in a statement faxed to news agencies, noted that the Sudanese government had accused Eritreans and Ethiopians of taking part in the protests.

"This indicates that the regime intends to violate the human rights of the (Eritrean and Ethiopian) refugees," it added.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported that 40 Ethiopian Nationals were arrested in the east Khartoum district of Al Juraf.

Lebanese businessmen assail Hariri's reconstruction plan

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese businessmen have criticised billionaire Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri's ambitious plan to rebuild post-war Lebanon, saying it is too extravagant and that he should cut it back.

In a report published on Friday, the Lebanese Businessmen's Association (LBA) warned of worsening balance of payments and trade deficits as well as deepening debt.

Mr. Hariri's plan — called Horizon 2000 — to rebuild the country after the ravages of a 15-year-long civil war was not in itself sufficient to boost the economy without an accompanying economic and social programme, the LBA report said.

"The government has a clear reconstruction policy, but on the other hand it lacks any measures to boost the productive sectors and to protect the social classes," said the report, a copy of which was handed to Mr. Hariri on Thursday by LBA members.

The business group said the financing needs for the plan — \$12 billion to \$18 billion over 12 years for the public sector alone and an additional \$40 billion for the private sector — "exceed the country's ability to save and borrow."



Rafik Hariri

One of the major problems cited in the LBA report was rising public debt which it said reached 60 per cent of gross domestic product and was likely to rise to 90 per cent of GDP by 1999.

"The government... has to realise that this problem subjects the economy to continuous convulsion for the next 15 years and makes it very sensitive to all political and economic events and social ills," the businessmen noted.

The LBA report said authorities must adopt a new financial policy because the growing budget deficit and

the high interest rates paid on Lebanese pound-denominated treasury bills were a heavy burden on government resources.

They said the government should separate reconstruction needs from its annual budget.

A third problem, according to the LBA, was the trade deficit, which rose to \$3.735 billion in the first seven months of 1995, compared to \$2.970 billion in the same period last year — a 26 per cent increase.

The LBA recommended the government privatise some public enterprises, such as oil refineries, telephones, water, the tobacco monopoly, highways and flag-carrier Middle East Airlines because this would ensure "better service at lesser cost and greater efficiency."

The report called for economic and financial austerity, including taxes on luxury goods, halting extravagant public spending "starting at the top" and adoption of a social policy that covers housing and public transport.

They did, however, note accomplishments of the Hariri government since it took office in October 1992, including stabilising the local currency.